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Garcia tells Martinez: Produce tapes

■ Entertainment / A2-2

'Cavite' reaps praise in LA Film Fest

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6 car bomb attacks kill 40 in Baghdad

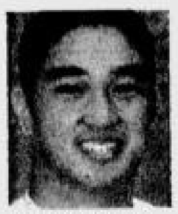
■ Business / B1

Oil crisis aggravating RP's hardship

■ Sports / A24

Safin, Federer trounce rivals in Wimbledon

Fil-Am genius, 15, here to relax, unwind



DE GUZMAN

By Nikko Dizon

ALL OF 15 years old, this whiz is set to begin graduate studies in computer science at the University of California-Santa Barbara in August.

FIL-AM/ A10

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, June 24, 2005 ★★ 72 pages / 9 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 196 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Ebdane ribs opposition: It's New Jersey in QC

By Leila B. Salaverria
Metro

NEW JERSEY, Cubao, perhaps.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday

EBDANE/ A10

BAKA NAMAN DINALHAN NG BLANK CDs!

Foes step up pressure on GMA: Talk on tape

Bishop, militants spurn Noli succession

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora
in Manila

ANOTHER Edsa revolt can happen if the people are assured that there won't be a Noli de Castro presidency, a bishop and an official of a party-list group said on the eve of a rally aimed at pressuring President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

Under the Constitution, Vice President De Castro will assume the presidency should Ms Arroyo leave Malacañang.

Infanta Bishop Julio Labayen yesterday said at a forum at the University of the Philippines-Baguio that no one wanted De Castro, a former radio announcer, to succeed Ms Arroyo.

Because of the De Castro factor, certain religious leaders and the party-list group Bayan Muna proposed a transition government replace Ms Arroyo.

BISHOP/ A4

Palace won't let Abu go amid crisis

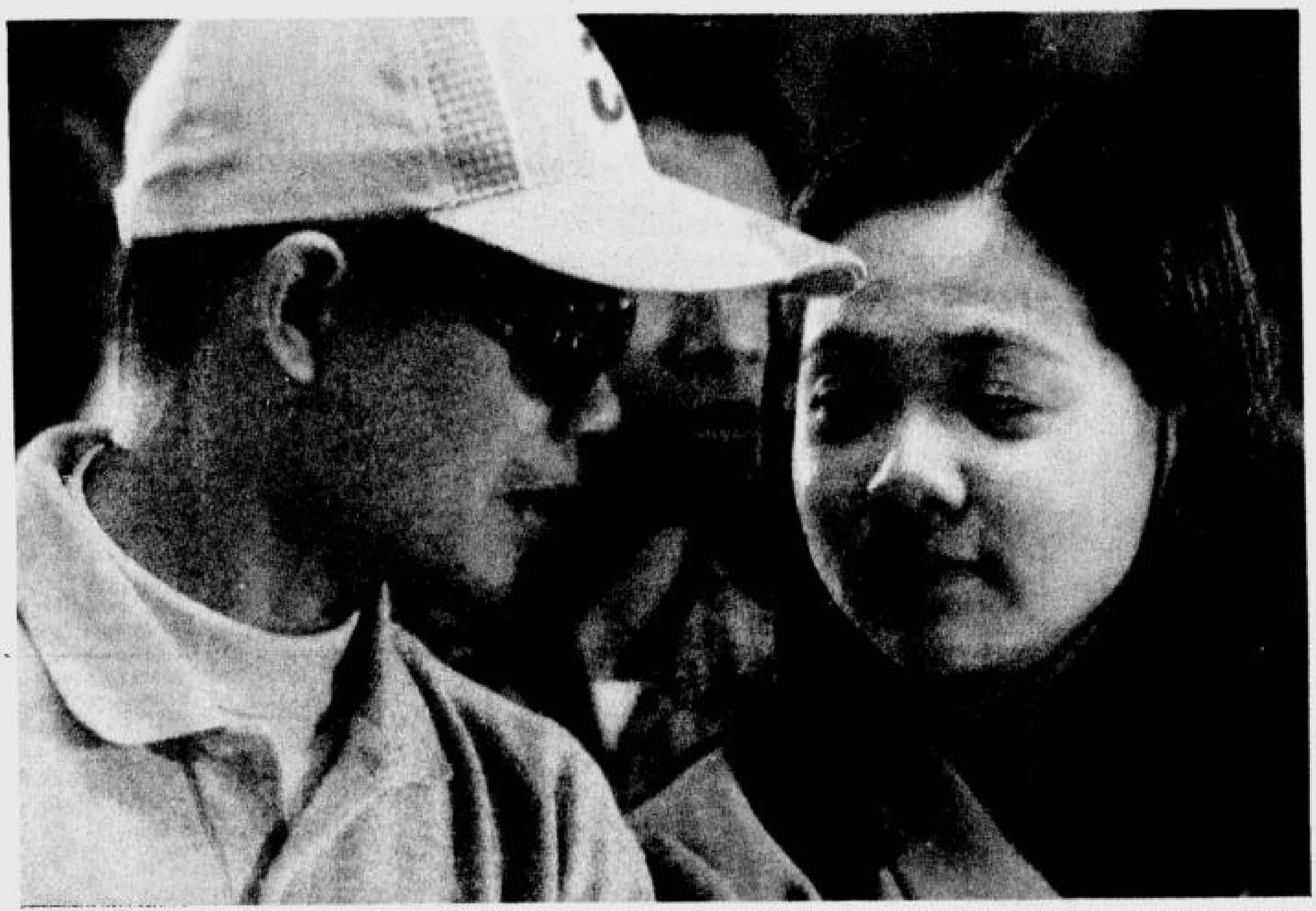
By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

IT'S NOT yet goodbye for Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu, with Malacañang extending his term because of the prevailing political tension.

Abu was scheduled to step down today, when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56. But instead of naming the new AFP chief of staff, Malacañang canceled the turnover ceremony set for this morning.

"It's because of the tension this Saturday," said a military official, referring to the protest march on Malacañang to be led by former

PALACE/ A6



ROBERT Tarongoy, a Filipino worker who was held hostage for eight months in Iraq, and his wife Ivy arrive in Malacañang to a warm welcome from President Macapagal-Arroyo. EDWIN BACASMAS

'Thank God, I was given a new lease on life'

By Nikko Dizon and Christine O. Avendaño

ROBERT Tarongoy's Iraqi captors were particularly nasty during the first month of his captivity. They repeatedly pummeled and pistol-whipped him. His hands and feet were bound and he was fed only once a day.

Throughout the 233-day ordeal, he was kept blindfolded.

Yesterday, Tarongoy finally came home, a day after he was driven to the Palestine Hotel in central Baghdad and freed to a team of Filipino diplomats who had negotiated his release.

"Thank God, I was given a second lease on life," said the 31-year-old accountant. "Thank you, President Arroyo, for not abandoning me and for supporting me for the past eight months."

With his wife Ivy beside him, Tarongoy limply raised a clenched right fist and fought back tears as he struggled to speak to reporters at Malacañang and a national television audience.

Pleading with reporters to respect his privacy, Tarongoy was whisked off from the airport shortly after his arrival from Baghdad and Bahrain for a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo and a reunion with his family at the Palace.

"Our countrymen, thank God, and a happy welcome to Robert Tarongoy," Ms Arroyo said.

She congratulated Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis for

'THANK GOD'/ A6

Roco says President must now resign

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Fe Zamora

WARNING against a "gathering storm," opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa unveiled yesterday moves to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to break her silence on an alleged wiretap purporting to show she cheated in the last election.

Contacted by the INQUIRER, former Sen. Raul Roco also said Ms Arroyo had "lost the moral right to govern" and should now step down "for the sake of national unity."

"Can you say that she was a good sherpherd?" asked Roco, 63-year-old Alyansa ng Pag-Asa standard-bearer who was the first to concede defeat to Ms Arroyo in the May 2004 presidential race.

"We're not the ones calling for her and her officials to resign. No, they are the ones doing so ... by what they have done. It's finished," said Roco.

"It's pure common sense. The key element for development is honesty. How can people follow you if you're lying?" said Roco.

De Villa, also a former Armed Forces chief of staff and leader of the moderate Reporma Party, announced he was joining calls by nongovernment organizations seeking the establishment of a

FOES/ A4

DONATIONS IN KIND

Cruz: 'Jueteng' money helped GMA in polls

By Christian V. Esguerra

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz yesterday accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of benefiting from "jueteng" when she ran for vice president in 1998 and for president in 2004.

Speaking before members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) at the Manila Hotel, Cruz said Ms Arroyo received donations "in kind" from a known jueteng lord in her province.

"My understanding was it was more in kind," he told reporters.

In an interview with the INQUIRER later, Cruz said Ms Arroyo got "mostly propaganda materials" from an alleged jueteng benefactor.

Cruz, head of the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, did not say how he learned about the supposed donations. His group has at least 62 chapters monitoring jueteng operations nationwide.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. earlier accused Ms Arroyo of receiving donations in the form of campaign materials from her close friend, Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, said to be the undisputed jueteng lord in Pampanga, the President's home province.

The President later told evangelical leaders that she had never received a single centavo from jueteng.

In today's resumption of the Senate jueteng investigation, Cruz is expected to present his fifth witness, who would "cement" the previous testimony.

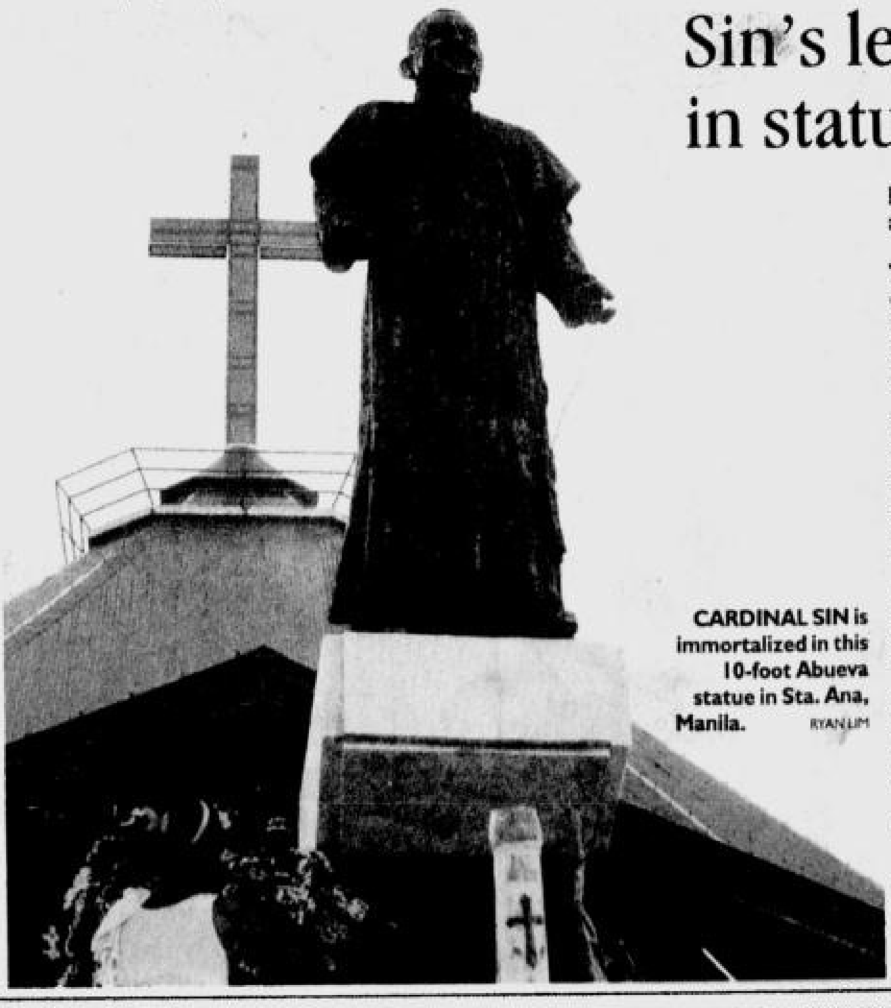
Cruz said his final witness would point to "the summit of it all ... the highest officer of the land."

He described his witness as a "tough guy" who knew many things about jueteng operations in Bicol.

The witness had preserved his testimony on video so the public could still hear his story in case he was harmed, the

CRUZ/ A6

Sin's legacy lives on in statue, 20 shrines



CARDINAL SIN is immortalized in this 10-foot Abueva statue in Sta. Ana, Manila. RYAN LIM

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MEMORY of Jaime Cardinal Sin lives on in a 10-foot bronze statue at the entrance to a village that he set up for the poorest of the poor in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila.

The statue sculpted by National Artist Napoleon Abueva—of Sin standing on the edge of a black granite block, his arms seemingly welcoming his flock—stands in front of the chapel in the village that bears his name. It was unveiled shortly after the cardinal passed away on Tuesday morning.

"He always stood on the edge, on unstable and rough ground, in his lifetime," Fr. Mark Munda, administrator of the Cardinal Sin Village, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The bronze face shows no anxiety and is actually happy, underscoring the fact that "he always brought comfort to and led the Filipino people" during rough times, Munda said, adding:

"He was a leader who was never afraid to face uncertainty."

Bataan Bishop Socrates Villegas, Sin's protégé of 18 years, oversaw the details of the statue to make sure that it would capture his mentor's unforgettable role in

SIN'S/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY IKAY SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/06/24/05

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

BIR raps Binondo couple

TAX EVASION charges were filed yesterday by the Bureau of Internal Revenue against a couple running a real estate business in Binondo, Manila, for gross under declaration of their income from 2000 to 2003 despite having acquired expensive properties.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said the tax liabilities of Antonio Manly, executive vice president of the family-owned Standard Realty Corp., and his wife Ruby Ong-Manly covering a period of three years had reached P12.4 million.

Parayno said during the three years in question, Antonio claimed that his annual salary was P148,100 as Standard Realty executive vice president, and that he earned additional P206,489 per year from his rental business. His wife did not declare any earnings.

And during those years, the Manlys only paid P64,757.21 in 2000, P73,669 in 2001, and P48,729 in 2003, according to documents filed by internal revenue with the Department of Justice.

However, the BIR was able to establish that the Manlys acquired a luxurious log cabin in Tagaytay Highlands worth P17.5 million from Belle Corp. on July 31, 2000, a Toyota RAV4 (with plate AMR 456) worth P1.35 million in 2001, and a Toyota Prado (with plate AMR 123) worth P2 million in 2003.

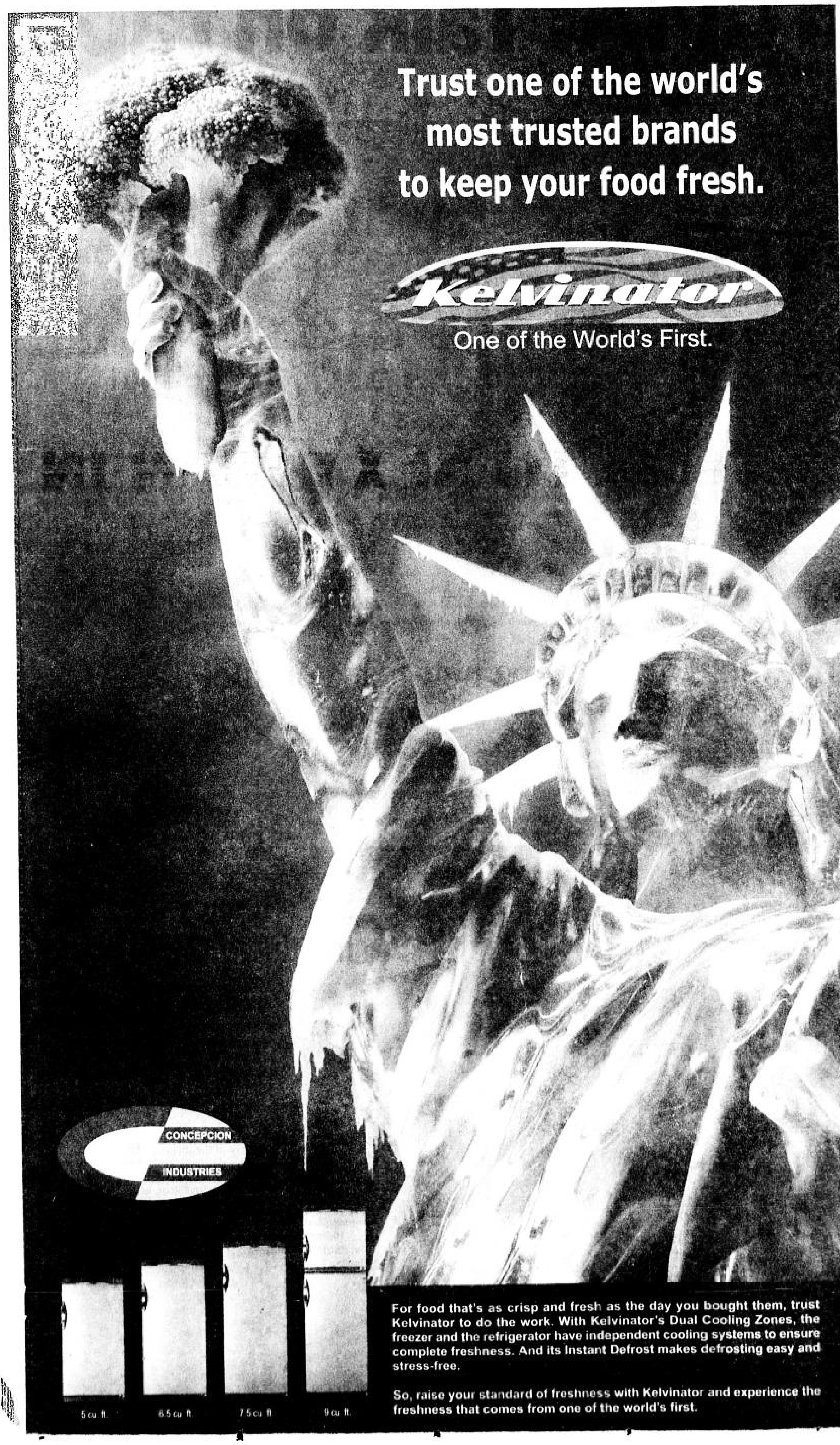
He said the couple's declared income was highly disproportionate to their capability to acquire such expensive properties.

"It is surprising that the couple managed to acquire luxurious properties—the maintenance of which alone would require thousands of pesos per month—despite their 'meager income' from family-run businesses," Parayno said.

According to Parayno, the 384.73-sq.-m. log cabin in Tagaytay was even paid in cash.

Antonio had told a BIR team of investigators that he used his savings to purchase the property. He, however, failed to produce proof that the money came from either loans, inheritance or winnings.

Parayno said the BIR was pursuing both the civil and criminal aspects of the Manlys case because there was clearly a gross under declaration of income in violation of Section 205 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.



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SC affirms PCGG deal with Ilusorio

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME Court has affirmed the legality of a 1996 compromise agreement between the Presidential Commission on Good Government and Potenciano Ilusorio, an associate of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, concerning the contested shares of stock of the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC).

The decision, issued on June 15, finally settled the issue of just how much of POTC stock is owned by the government.

In its decision, the court said the agreement where the government got 4,727 out of the disputed 5,400 POTC shares had the imprimatur of the Sandiganbayan and the Ramos administration.

"With the imprimatur of no less than the former President Fidel V. Ramos and the approval of the Sandiganbayan, the compromise agreement must be accorded utmost respect. Such amicable settlement is not only allowed but even encouraged," the SC said in its decision.

Under the compromise agreement, concluded on June 28, 1996, Illusorio recognized the government's right and ownership over 4,727 POTC shares owned by the Independent Realty Corp. (IRC) and Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp. (MPLDC), which another Marcos associate, Jose Yao Campos, had surrendered to the government.

Ilusorio and Yao were part of the so-called "XYZ" trio of Marcos associates that also included the late Honorio Poblador.

IRC and MPLDC were interlocking dummy corporations allegedly set up by Marcos, his wife Imelda, and son Ferdinand Jr., as well as alleged Marcos cronies that included Roberto Benedicto, Juan Ponce Enrile, Jose Africa, Manuel Nieto and Ilusorio.

Deal questioned

The deal was questioned by later administrations of the PCGG, IRC and MPLDC, which said that it gave the Ilusorio group control of the POTC and its wholly owned subsidiary, Philippine Telecommunications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) at the expense of the government.

Under the Ilusorio-PCGG deal, the PCGG surrendered to Ilusorio 673 POTC shares from the 5,400 shares under the surrendered IRC and MPLDC. With the 1,775 POTC shares that Ilusorio already owned, the deal in effect gave Ilusorio control of the company.

In 1999, the officials of the PCGG, IRC and MPLDC filed a petition for certiorari with the high court against the June 8, 1998 resolution of the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court approving the compromise agreement with Ilusorio.

This is the petition that the SC rejected in its June 15 decision.

In the decision penned by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez, the SC said that it was also junking the petition on technical grounds—the failure of the petitioners to file a motion for reconsideration of the Sandiganbayan resolution.

The SC also noted that the Sandiganbayan had rejected the claims of the petitioners that the compromise agreement should be voided because its terms were grossly disadvantageous to the government.

Under the terms of the compromise agreement, the government dropped all criminal charges against Ilusorio.

Before the compromise, Ilusorio was a co-defendant in a P51-billion ill-gotten wealth case in the Sandiganbayan filed by the PCGG in 1987 against Marcos, Imelda, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Benedicto, Enrile, Africa and Nieto.

To avoid a protracted trial, Ilusorio, who died in 2001, chose to enter into what PCGG insiders have called a "highly anomalous" compromise deal.

Palace reverses CHEd on AMA

By Alcuin Papa

THE AMA Computer College said yesterday it scored a victory against the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) after Malacañang ordered the agency to issue a full permit to its Makati campus to offer nursing courses.

CHEd senior vice president for Academic Affairs Patrick Azanza said the commission had earlier disallowed their Makati campus from offering nursing courses because it did not comply with CHEd Memorandum Order No. 28 on the requirements of nursing schools.

The memorandum was issued during the time of former chair Fr. Rolando dela Rosa O.P.

When he was head of CHEd, Dela Rosa had put in place stricter screening process for all schools applying for permits from the commission to improve the quality of tertiary education. He also started a crackdown on the proliferation of fly-by-night schools, particularly those offering nursing courses.

Dela Rosa had also complained of attempts by lawmakers to intervene in the decisions of the commission.

But Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs Manuel Gaite of the Office of the President said in a decision dated June 3 that the memorandum should be set aside because it was not published.

Abat charged with inciting to sedition for oust-GMA call

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday filed an inciting to sedition complaint against Maj. Gen. Fortunato Abat (ret.) in the Department of Justice for allegedly calling for the overthrow of the Arroyo administration.

The complaint was filed one day after lawyers Romeo Igot and Ariel Joseph Arias filed a similar charge against Abat, Gen. Tomas Diaz (ret.), Commodore Ismael Aparri (ret.), former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, Linda Montayre, a John Moldero and several unnamed others.

As in the earlier complaint, the NBI cited the April 30 press conference called by Abat as the basis for going after the former defense secretary.

Abat was said to have called on the people to march to Malacañang to oust Ms Arroyo after former NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong came out on June 11 waving what he called the "mother of all tapes" from which the CDs purportedly implicating the President in election fraud had supposedly been copied.

"This is the big one to oust GMA," Abat supposedly told the media present while Ong was holed out at the time at the San Carlos Seminary on Edsa.

At the press conference at Club Filipino, Abat was said to have called for a "revolutionary transition" to "authoritative governance and install the foundation of a strong nation."

According to Abat, the present leadership had "failed in their duties as public servants" and he called for the abolition of Congress.

The new case against Abat was filed by Allan Contado, head of the Intelligence Service Operations Division of the NBI. *Armand N. Nocum*

'DECISION OF CONSCIENCE'

Ong to attend tape hearing

By Philip C. Tubeza and Luige A. del Puerto

FORMER National Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Samuel Ong will attend the House investigation into the "Gloria-gate" tapes next week, hoping the audio recordings would be played, his lawyer said yesterday.

Homobono Adaza said his client informed him that he was willing to appear before the five committees conducting the inquiry despite threats to his life. Adaza also urged former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to surface and attend the hearings.

"(Ong) said he has finally decided to appear in the hearing. It's a decision of conscience. He leaves everything to God," Adaza told Congress reporters.

"I'm appealing to Mr. Garcillano. Despite our differences in the past, it's about time he shows up. Why is he hiding?" he added.

Ong was scheduled to attend Wednesday's hearing but he did not show up.

Ong had claimed he had the "mother of all tapes" implicating the President and Garcillano in election fraud.

The investigation, meanwhile, into allegations against Ong by an intelligence officer was stuck in legal limbo after several persons subpoenaed by police sent their lawyers instead.

"We're now talking about legal procedures," said Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, yesterday of the charge of TSgt. Vidal Doble of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) that he was kidnapped and forced by Ong to admit he was the source of the wiretapped tapes.

The police have the option to ask the court to cite those who failed to honor the subpoena in contempt.

They included former starlet Laarni Enriquez, actor Rez Cortez, retired generals Jaime de los Santos and Joselin Nazareno, and former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio "Boy" Morales.

Enriquez, a mistress of ousted President Joseph Estrada, was the source of the P2 million Ong gave him to say he was the source of the tapes, Doble said.

Dolina said he and police lawyers were discussing whether the appearance of a lawyer constituted a "substantial compliance" of the subpoena.

"We're looking into the legal implications of going to court," he said.

Yesterday, Dolina said police had identified the "Chinese-looking" man who had supposedly met with Doble and Ong at the Borromeo Grill in Quezon City where they talked about the tapes. He, however, did not divulge the person's name.

"They knew each other since Ong's NBI days," Dolina said of the man.

It was this "Chinese-looking person" who ordered breakfast for Doble and Ong when they met at the restaurant. He later allegedly joined them at the Imperial Hotel, where a video recording was made of Doble stating that he was the source of the tapes.

Quoting Doble, Dolina said the Chinese-looking man read the questions from a script while Doble read the prepared answers.

Asked what was taking the police so long to file charges against Enriquez, Ong and the others, Dolina said investigators were still "validating" Doble's sworn statement.

"These are all allegations as of now. We want to make sure we have them verified before we go to the fiscal's office," he said.

He stressed that at the moment, none of them were considered suspects.

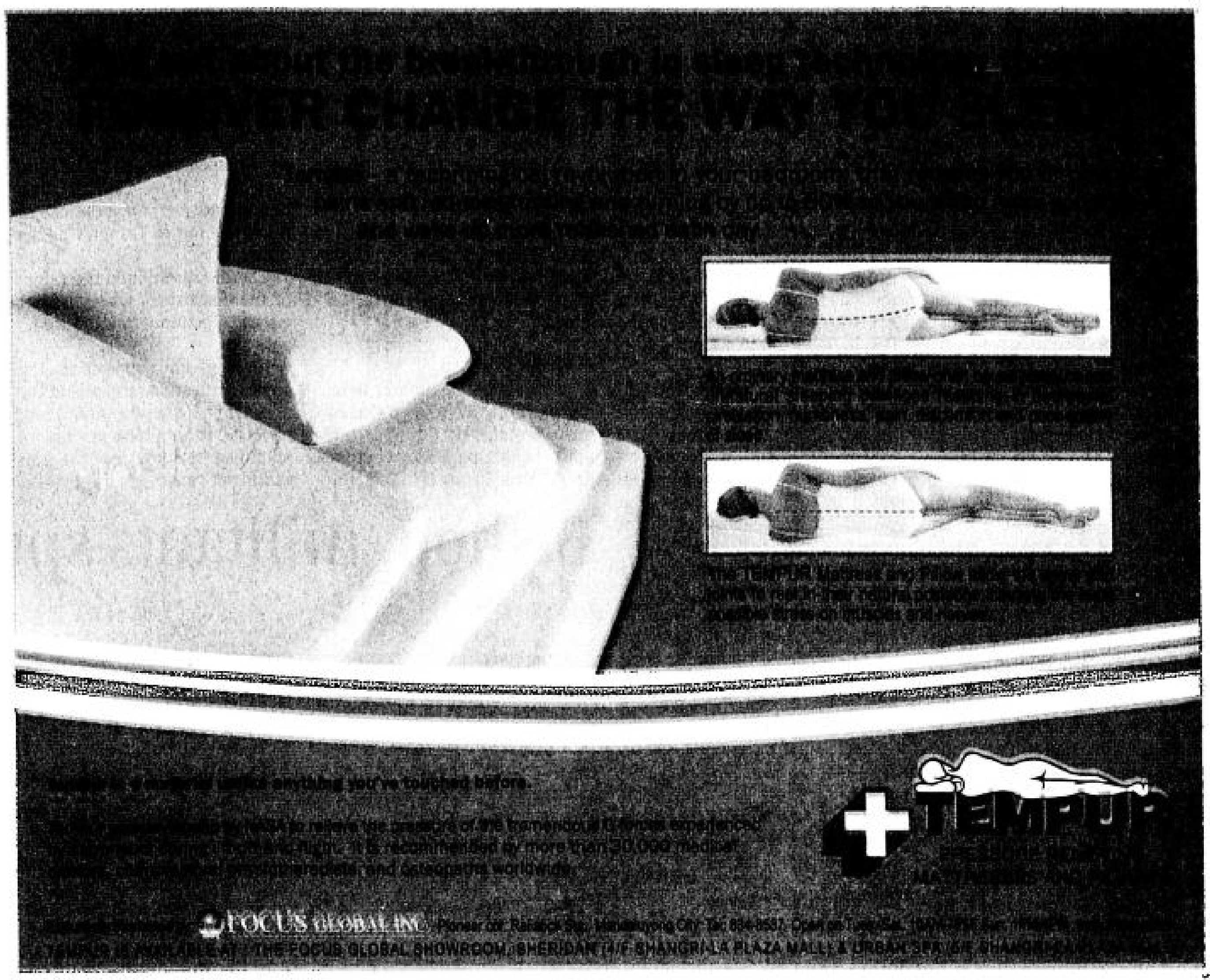
Another Huey crash: 2 PSG men hurt

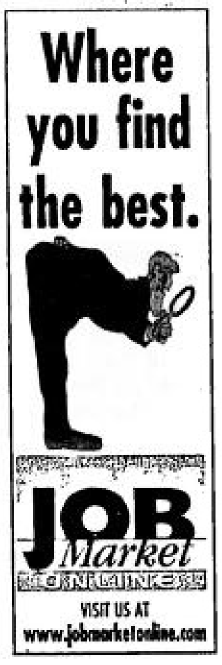
TWO MEMBERS of the Presidential Security Group and three Philippine Air Force men on a flight mission were injured after their UH-1H "Huey" crashed upon landing in Rosales, Pangasinan.

The PAF said in a statement the presidential security men, the co-pilot and two aircrew were rushed to the Villasis Hospital for treatment of superficial wounds and back pains. The victims' names were withheld pending notification of their families.

The Huey, with tail number 425, was getting ready to take off at the Rosales Airstrip at around 2:50 p.m. when it "suddenly went into an uncontrollable spin toward the right," the Air Force said.

PAF commanding general, Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, ordered the grounding of all operational UH-1Hs in the PAF as part of the standard operating procedure whenever aircraft accidents occur. *Nikko Dizon*





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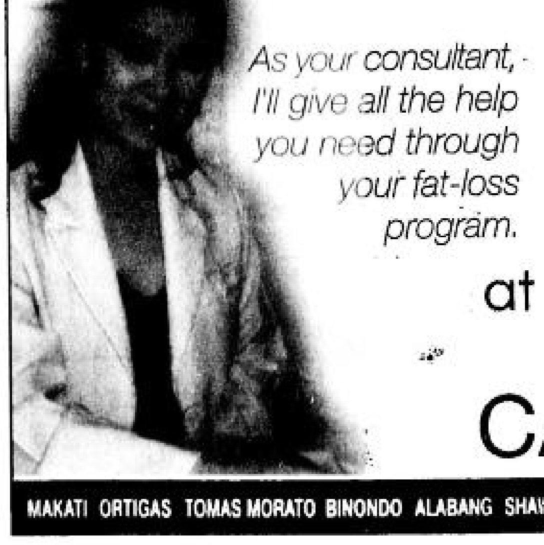

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Foes step up pressure on GMA: Talk on tape

From page A1

"truth commission."

He said the commission should be composed of prominent Filipinos led by former President Corazon Aquino. It would look into the alleged tapped telephone conversation showing Ms Arroyo pressing Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano for a one-million vote margin.

Ms Arroyo has said she will speak on the controversy at an appropriate time, not while there was a lot of speculation going on. Garcillano has denied he was the man on the recording and has disappeared from the public eye.

There was no immediate reaction from Aquino on De Villa's proposal.

"There is a gathering political storm that will affect all of us as a result of this crisis in credibility of government right now," De Villa said. "That's why it's best to be addressed on the basis of truth."

"We in Reporma believe and declare that there is an imperative need for the President, as chief executive and commander in chief, and as the central character allegedly featured in the said tapes, to explain herself frankly and convincingly before our people," he said.

In a separate news conference attended by opposition politicians, Lacson announced the launching of the "Be Not Afraid" movement which would set up centers in strategic cities where CDs of the alleged wiretap would be made available.

He said the movement was named after the late Pope John Paul II's historic "Be Not Afraid" cry which prompted changes in Poland during the 1980s.

Lacson said the movement would distribute CDs nationwide until the President breaks her silence on the tapes. As though taunting the authorities, Lacson and United Opposition leader Rep. Francis Escudero then led in the distribution of 500 CDs at the end of the two-hour press conference.

Lacson challenged Ms Arroyo to tell the truth now or be swept away by the fury of the people.

"Between the tapes and the fraudulent election returns, the nation can now understand why GMA's allies did everything to thwart efforts to expose the plot and conspiracy during the national canvassing," he said. He then enumerated instances of election fraud.

Time for passivity over

"The time for passivity and indifference is over. Truth cannot be hid forever by the silence of one person, even if that person is the highest official of the land," Lacson said.

"All that we've been hearing are legal excuses foisted upon the people in order to guard a lie, to protect a leadership founded upon a lie," Lacson said.

Escudero said Uno would soon present its own election documents to show how many votes Ms Arroyo and the late Fernando Poe Jr. really got in the 2004 elections.

Lacson also warned Garcillano, who he said was being kept by Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane's men, that he should now come out because he could be killed by the one who would be implicated if he confessed.

Among those who turned up were Representatives Ronaldo Zamora, Agapito "Butz" Aquino, Teofisto Guingona III, Jerome Paras, Darlene Custodio, Benjamin Agarao, Zeny Dilangalen, Ruy Lopez, Florencio Noel of the An-Waray party-list group; Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, businessman Peter Wallace, Betsy Quisumbing of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and a host of health professionals, youth and labor leaders.

Efforts downplayed

But Ms Arroyo's allies downplayed the joining of opposition forces. While saying the government must satisfy the "intense hunger of the people for truth," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the opposition leaders would soon part ways when they start tackling the issue of who should lead them.

Lacson presented a certification by Uniquest Pty Limited, a "very reputable and unassailable group" in Australia which he said was being used by the Hong Kong and Australian police, that the tape presented by opposition lawyer Alan Paguia was the authentic one.

"No splicing, no alterations, no adulteration," he said. But Lacson added he had not yet received UPI's report on whose voices were on the tape.

Lacson presented samples of "prefabricated" election returns to prove his allegation that Ms Arroyo and Garcillano succeeded in thwarting the will of the people. Lacson said the cheating was done with the printing of 30,000 additional copies of election returns by private printers, forms which found their way to Arroyo bailiwicks Cebu, Iloilo, Pampanga and Las Piñas City.

He said one of the private printers was Ernest Printing Corp.

"Imagine having access to 30,000 forms of election returns. That can easily translate into as many as six million votes," Lacson said.

A small blip

Lacson said that months before the election, Ms Arroyo's operators were already filling up page one of the six-page ERs where the presidential listing is found.

On June 21, 2004, about a month after the voting, Lacson had said those who questioned the election results should seek redress with the proper body mandated by the Constitution. He said that during the election campaign, he had stated that "any candidate who fails to protect his votes deserves to lose."

"He (Lacson) presented a small blip of an alleged fraud that was never raised in the elections and then makes a sweeping charge," was how Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser for political affairs, reacted to Lacson's allegations.

Claudio questioned the timing of the disclosures when, he noted, the election was more than a year ago.

He said the opposition had copies of election returns and certificates of canvass and could have raised a protest against the administration during the canvassing of votes.

"But they never did," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

With the proliferation of tapes alleging President Arroyo had cheated in the election, calls for the President to step down, and now this disclosure, Claudio said he was convinced there was a "real conspiracy" to bring down the legitimate government.

House probe

On the third day of a joint House investigation into the wiretapping, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday admitted that the NBI did not consider the tapes Secretary Ignacio Bunye gave the agency to be "wiretapped materials," raising the possibility that they could be played in public.

It also put to doubt the administration threat that those who distribute copies of the tapes would be arrested, opposition lawmakers said.

Wycoco said the NBI was still looking for the "originals" of the tapes and the person who allegedly committed the wiretapping before it takes any action.

"What we're saying is that what we have are the tampered tapes. We are looking for the originals and that will be the basis of the action we will take," he told lawmakers at yesterday's hearing.

Wycoco's admission came during his interpellation by Makati Representative Aquino, an opposition stalwart.

"What is needed is the person who actually did the wiretapping and the wiretapped materials. We need the person for us to know that there are wiretapped materials," Wycoco said. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadera*

Bishop, militants spurn Noli succession

From page A1

Apparently angered by the moves to unseat her, Ms Arroyo twitted her "enemies" for choosing Manila Day to start what she called the "final push" against her.

"I always believe that God knows to choose the best time," she said in a speech before a gathering of Manila barangay chairs at the Manila Hotel.

She said Manila would stand for democracy and turn its back on any destabilization moves.

At a forum on energy efficiency, the President said: "Those who plot against the government in this time of clear danger from external factors are no better than economic saboteurs."

The rally scheduled for today in Manila was organized by supporters of ex-President Joseph Estrada and the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. and members of militants groups such as Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), who claimed that Ms Arroyo cheated in the presidential election last year.

Bayan said it expected at least 20,000 to join the march at 1 p.m. from Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City to Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

A group led by Fortunato Abat, a retired general, will march on Malacañang tomorrow.

The march would mean either a "total change in the political system" or a stinging rebuke of the opposition, said Abat, who earlier called for a revolutionary transition government to replace the Arroyo administration.

"This is the first and last gathering. If it does not succeed, it will be a symbol of defeat [for us]," Abat said, referring to the "People's Peaceful and Nonviolent March [on] Malacañang" called by his group, the Coalition for National Solidarity.

But no one stands out as Ms Arroyo's legitimate successor, according to Labayen.

Transition government

He said a transition government appeared to be the only democratic solution available because a group representing the people could decide on who should lead them.

"They know who is a straight arrow and those who are not," said Labayen, who belongs to an ecumenical movement composed of the Catholic Church and several Protestant churches, which has asked Ms Arroyo to resign.

Manuel Loste, Bayan Muna national vice chair, said his group had suggested that "we move away from the limitations of the Constitution in unseating a President because we know Noli de Castro is simply not prepared to assume the task."

Loste said a transitional council could replace Ms Arroyo because the people must correct the mistake of Edsa II that unseated Estrada and installed "a traditional politician."

He later told the INQUIRER that a transitional council was no different from the coalition that ousted Estrada in 2001.

But this time, the council would be composed of organizations "with a credible track record of public service," he said.

Although supporting today's nationwide protest actions seeking the President's ouster, Labayen and other religious leaders have asked Ms Arroyo for a "conscientious decision to step down" because they want to avoid bloodshed.

Labayen said Ms Arroyo had been weakened by economic policies, such as the law increasing the value-added tax and her decision to support unpopular industries such as mining.

Sto. Domingo Mass cancelled

Organizers of the rally in Manila suffered a minor setback when the Sto. Domingo Church cancelled the Mass they planned to hold before the march on Liwasang Bonifacio.

"We were told that if they allowed us to hold the Mass, they might be accused of taking sides. We'll give that to them. It's their right," said Fr. Joe Dizon, one of the organizers of the so-called national day of protest.

Jose "Linggoy" Alcuaz, a supporter of Poe and one of the organizers of the demonstration, said his group was still trying to negotiate for church leaders to reconsider as of 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

"The 1 p.m. Mass has been cancelled but the assembly point will still be at Sto. Domingo," Alcuaz said.

Dizon said an ecumenical service had been planned.

United Opposition

Aside from Dizon's Patriots, those taking part in the protest are the militant party-list groups Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela, civil society's People's Coalition for National Salvation, the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty and Poe supporters from the National Council of Volunteers.

The United Opposition and Sen. Panfilo Lacson are also expected to participate.

This marks the first time that militant groups that helped oust then President Joseph Estrada in 2001 will join groups identified with the deposed leader and the late presidential candidate Poe in a massive demonstration.

Rez Cortez, head of the National Council of Volunteers, said some 10,000 Poe supporters would join the rally.

"The Filipino people deserve to hear the truth. Tomorrow will be the best time for Arroyo to speak. Is she the female voice on the tapes? A president who won by fraud does not have any legal and moral basis to hold on to power," Dizon said.

Linda Montayre, whose People's Coalition for National Salvation boasts of active military and police personnel as members, said the groups involved in the anti-Arroyo protest were out to expose the truth.

"Going by the groups that will join, we expect it to be huge," Montayre said of this afternoon's protest march.

She said the "patriotic military" would observe the conduct of the protest to gauge the public sentiment on the crisis besetting the Arroyo administration, to help them make a decision on what to do with the President.

"Their Commander-in-Chief is a fraud. How will they deal with her?" Montayre said.

Audiotape

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said the nationally coordinated protests would also serve as distribution sites for the now famous "Hello Garci" audio tape and ring tones.

At a press conference at Sulo Hotel in Quezon City, Abat said there was no turning back from what he called a "movement for national solidarity" tomorrow, in which civil society groups would march on the Palace to demand Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Not even his arrest or lack of a permit-to-rally could stop the mobilization, he said.

Two lawyers have filed a case of inciting to sedition against Abat and several others in connection with their alleged plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

Abat said the movement would be "purely civilian." But he cautioned military officers against "obeying" wrongful orders from their higher-ups.

It is just a matter of time before Ms Arroyo's administration collapses because she has lost her credibility to lead, according to the former defense secretary.

"On her own, she will fall even without the help of civil society. But we want to facilitate her fall," he said.

While the no-permit, no-rally rule will be strictly observed today elsewhere in Metro Manila, protesters are welcome to assemble in Quezon City, according to the city's police chief.

But they will have to make sure they do not cause trouble, said Central Police District (CPD) Director Nicasio Radovan Jr. "They should not disrupt traffic and other normal activities," he said.

Some 650 CPD troops will be deployed today in the city's streets, he said. About 300 of them will guard the Welcome Rotonda, while 100 others will stand watch at Batasan Hills, he said.

Another 200 antiriot police troops will be on standby at Camp Karingal, Radovan said. *With reports from Edson Tandoc, DJ Yap and Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the headline of a front-page story—"Nene wants Edsa show to go on, but lead actor is gone"—should have read "Nene says Edsa show may go on, even if lead actor is gone." The lead paragraph of the same story should also have read: "Even without its leading actor, the Edsa show may go on"—not "must go on." Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. clarified yesterday that he didn't say he wanted another Edsa. He said that his text message to the INQUIRER on Wednesday read: "Without Cardinal Sin, people power is difficult but not impossible."

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page story—"7-month ordeal over for Filipino hostage"—misstated the name of one of the friendly governments that helped obtain the release of Robert Tarongoy. The Philippines enlisted the help of the United Arab Emirates—not the United Arab Republic.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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NBI files case vs man with fake Palace papers

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is hunting a professor who nearly took over the Mindanao State University presidency by using forged letter of appointment allegedly signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

On Wednesday, the bureau recommended the filing of a case of estafa through falsification of public documents with the Manila Prosecutor's Office against Abdul Rakim Mutin, a 60-year-old resident of Marawi City.

A report by the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division showed that Mutin, who had a doctorate degree in education, had applied for the position of president at the state university in July 2004.

However, to the surprise of university officials, Mutin had told them that he was named MSU president by Malacañang on April 1, said lawyer Elfren Meneses, head of the anti-fraud division.

Aside from presenting appointment papers supposedly signed by the President on Dec. 10, 2004, Mutin also presented a follow-up letter allegedly endorsed by Undersecretary Abraham Purugganan of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Special Concern.

The letter, which was later discovered to be fake, was addressed to members of the Search Committee on Appointments at Malacañang, allegedly certifying his appointment as new MSU president.

Committee chair Bernardino Abes, however, discovered that the term of the current MSU president won't be expiring until August 2005.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 24, 2005
Birth of John the Baptist

1st Reading:	**Is 49:1-6**
2nd Reading:	**Acts 13:22-26**

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66,80

When the time came for Elizabeth, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the merciful Lord had done a wonderful thing for her and they rejoiced with her.

When on the eighth day they came to attend the circumcision of the child, they wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." They said to her, "No one in your family has that name"; and they asked the father by means of signs for the name he wanted to give. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it, "His name is John," and they were very surprised. Immediately Zechariah could speak again and his first words were in praise of God.

A holy fear came on all in the neighborhood, and throughout the Hills of Judea the people talked about these events. All who heard of it pondered in their minds and wondered, "What will this child be?" For they understood that the hand of the Lord was with him.

As the child grew up, he was seen to be strong in the Spirit; he lived in the desert till the day when he appeared openly in Israel.

Commentary

This is the child called from his mother's womb to be a prophet to the nations. He was formed to be a sharpened sword, a polished arrow held in Yahweh's hand until the time was fulfilled. And then he was let loose! John the prophet was sent to bring back the people to their God and to make the light shine forth as a signal to all the nations. This is the man-child named John in obedience to the angel's word and in naming the child, his father's tongue is loosed and he praises God who is doing great things in Israel. This child goes before the Lord and prepares them for freedom, for forgiveness and mercy unknown before on earth. This man brings mercy to earth, light in the darkness, strong in the Spirit and then he appears in Israel openly preaching. What child is this? Once again we need to pray our God to send prophets, call them from the womb, to prepare God's way among us, to instill fear of the Lord once again in the people and to speak and live with the hand of God upon them.

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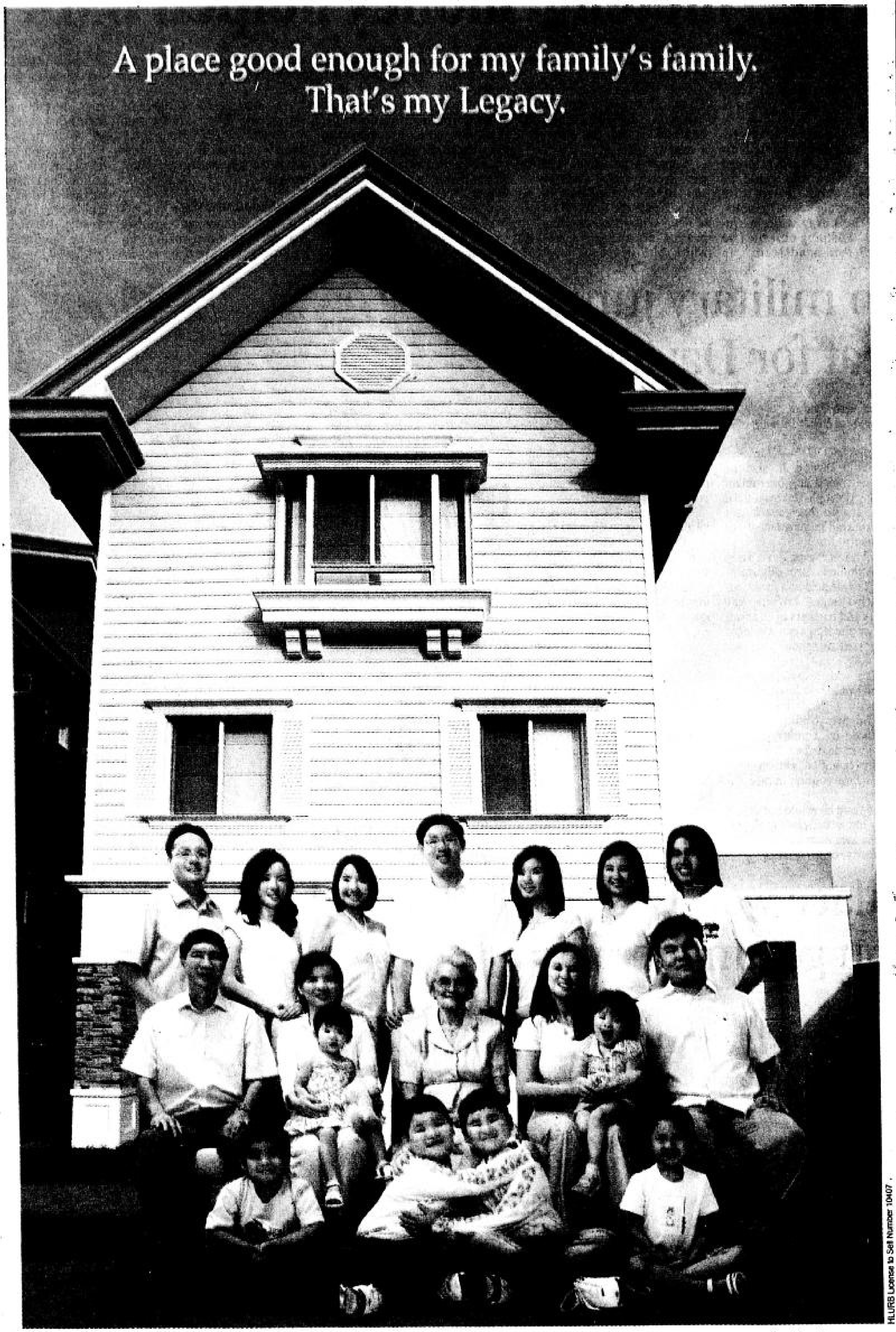
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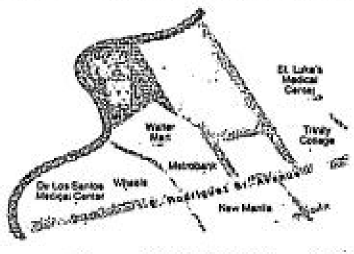

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Cruz: 'Jueteng' money helped GMA in polls

From page A1

bishop said.

A loyal friend of his has a copy of the video tape, according to Cruz.

Cruz's allegation at the Focap forum was the latest blow against the embattled Arroyo administration and could be weighty in a country with a history of "people power" revolts, where the clergy were instrumental in helping oust the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

The new allegation against Ms Arroyo came on top of scandals that have rocked her administration in the last two weeks.

Witnesses provided by Cruz had directly linked Ms Arroyo's son and brother-in-law to jueteng payoffs, and the House of Representatives has opened a hearing into alleged wiretaps in which Ms Arroyo is allegedly heard talking to an election official about rigging last year's polls.

Ms Arroyo has ordered the justice department to investigate her family but refused to comment on the wiretap allegations.

Cruz said two months ago a "close friend" gave him two CD copies of the alleged wiretaps, and said he was convinced it was Ms Arroyo's voice on the recordings.

Compared with possible electoral fraud, the issue of gambling payoffs was a minor one, Cruz said.

"For a legitimate official to be corrupted is less in gravity than for an official to be sitting in office without the mandate of the people in a democratic system," he said.

Money-laundering

Asked if there was another scandal being cooked up against Ms Arroyo, Cruz paused and replied: "Yes."

Pressed for more details, he said a group was preparing documents pertaining to money-laundering that could implicate members of the First Family.

"It's a group and definitely [its members] are not pro-administration," he told reporters.

"I don't know if they will succeed in the collation of these documents. I'm not yet sure. But they're being prepared."

Asked if the case was targeting First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, he said: "You make your research, please." He declined to elaborate.

The archbishop said he was not in favor of a change in leadership but urged Ms Arroyo to "make an about-face and face the millions of poor waiting for attention."

"I am not really for her ouster, although I see sparks here and there that are moving toward that direction," he said. *With a report from AP*

No military junta seat for Davide

By Estanislao Caldez
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said he would not lead a government formed through extrajudicial means because that government would contradict his advocacy of the Constitution.

"I will never, never, never sit in any extrajudicial form of government," Davide said at a forum attended by judges, lawyers, law students and teachers of Cagayan Valley at the Cagayan Colleges Tuguegarao law school here yesterday.

Davide was responding to a question raised by a lawyer on his availability to lead the country should the Arroyo administration be replaced by a military junta. The lawyer described Davide as the only qualified person who could lead the country in case of a takeover.

Davide said he would not sit in a military junta "because for all you know, the next morning I would be dead because of an accident."

People would suffer if the military took over the government, according to the Chief Justice.

Davide said he had been appealing for sobriety and for prayers in these times of uncertainty.

"I am happy [that] every Filipino is now appealing for sobriety. Pray that nothing will escalate the present turmoil," he said.

He told the judges and lawyers that he had always advocated following the Constitution in any government process.

"[The establishment of a] military junta is against my views," he said.

Asked about the "jueteng" payola controversy and the allegations of election fraud supposedly in wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election official, Davide said he did not have enough information about the issues.

He goes to bed early and does not watch news programs on television, he said.

FORMER captive Robert Tarongoy, in sunglasses, arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. He is flanked by Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes (left), Airport Manager Alfonso Cusi (right) and Ambassador Amable Aguiluz (behind in suit). At right behind Cusi is Special Envoy Roy Cimatu. ROGER MARGALLO

Palace won't let Abu go amid crisis

From page A1

Army chief Fortunato Abat.

Abat's group, the Coalition of National Solidarity, is demanding that President Macapagal-Arroyo resign because of the swirling allegations of election fraud.

Militant groups and supporters of the late actor and opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. are also set to hold a rally today at the Liwasang Bonifacio to demand the same thing.

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President had deferred the turnover ceremony by at least a week in anticipation of another red-alert day.

"We have obtained information that there might be chaos in the streets [today], so we might as well let the hot air pass," Ermita said.

"Just imagine that while we are celebrating the turnover at Camp Aguinaldo, protesters will be marching from the [Welcome] Rotonda [in Quezon City] to the Liwasang Bonifacio [in Manila]," he said.

Ermita, who has curiously been kept in the dark on the President's choice to replace Abu, said the military rank and file "understood the delay in turnover."

"This will not be the first time we will have a situation like this," he said, citing the full alert declared during the Commission on Elections' proclamation of Ms Arroyo's victory in June 2004 and Poe's burial last December.

"We had very, very hot information that there would be chaos, but those days passed without incident. And I hope it will be the same [today]," he said.

Unexpected

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz announced the cancellation of the turnover ceremony on Wednesday at the end of a command conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

Cruz reportedly told top AFP officials who attended the conference that the testimonial parade for Abu and the turnover had been reset to another day, and that the President would announce the matter today.

He did not elaborate, the source said. But the officials present, including Abu, were reportedly surprised at the announcement.

ABU

According to the source, Abu did not expect the term extension.

Abu reportedly said his farewells and thanked the military officials present for their support before Cruz made his announcement.

Unconfirmed reports say his term will be extended by at least a month.

If that happens, Abu would be the third military chief under the Arroyo administration to be given a term extension. The others were Benjamin Defensor and Roy Cimatu.

The choice of the next AFP chief of staff is reportedly a toss-up between Army chief Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga and Navy chief Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon.

The two were present at Wednesday's command conference.

No worries

Ermita said what was important was the government's preparedness against any public disorder.

"We learn to live with these things. We always have to compare with other situations so we can be prepared. There is no reason to worry," he said, adding:

"But the administration has the tools, and it will use them if [protesters] go out of bounds."

'Thank God, I was given a new lease on life'

From page A1

successfully securing Tarongoy's freedom. "Thank God that their concern for Tarongoy bore fruit."

Iraqi insurgents seized Tarongoy and American Roy Hallums on Nov. 1, 2004, during an attack on their Saudi firm in Baghdad in which an Iraqi guard and an attacker were killed. A Nepalese and three Iraqis were also abducted but were subsequently released.

An armed group calling itself Jayah al-Mujahedeen (the Army of Holy Warriors) said it freed Tarongoy after the Philippine government agreed to its demand, Al-Jazeera television reported.

Tarongoy, held by two armed men, was shown on Al-Jazeera reading a statement in which the Philippine government said it had banned its nationals from traveling to Iraq and adopted a new law to punish those who disobeyed the order.

Second Filipino freed

Tarongoy was the second Filipino taken hostage and freed in Iraq. Truck driver Angelo de la Cruz was freed on July 22, 2004, after the Philippine government gave in to demands by his captors for the early withdrawal of its small peacekeeping contingent from Iraq.

The Philippine move was criticized by Washington but applauded at home.

Tarongoy arrived in Manila, looking emaciated and pale. He wore a collared shirt, jeans and a beige cap. He apologized to photographers for not taking off his sunglasses.

"I hope you understand, I can't remove them. I didn't see the sun for eight months. I was blindfolded. I am still having difficulty with my eyesight," he said.

He tearfully begged off recounting his captivity, saying he was still traumatized by the ordeal. He said he just wanted privacy and to join his family.

An ABS-CBN television reporter on the plane with Tarongoy said the freed hostage narrated to him how he was regularly beaten and pistol-whipped in the head, particularly during his first month of captivity.

Tarongoy said that during this period, he was hogtied, kept in a dank cell and fed once a day.

He said his arm was broken and he couldn't move it until January. He said he was lying on his back most of the time in his cell. Sometimes, he said, his guard would put an unloaded gun to his head and pull the trigger.

"I don't know how I managed to survive. Maybe it was because of your prayers," Tarongoy told ABS-CBN.

His American companion also suffered the same treatment.

"Iraq is a heavy burden to me," Tarongoy told reporters. He said he prayed often during his confinement for his safe return to the Philippines.

Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes told the INQUIRER that no ransom was paid for Tarongoy's release.

THE GRATEFUL ex-hostage embraces the President during their meeting in Malacañang. AP

"Those who speculate are putting the lives of our overseas workers in danger," said Brillantes. "Mercenaries out there would think there would be something to gain in doing these things."

All Tarongoy said of his release was that he was in a car, then he saw that he was already in Baghdad and was being met by the team led by Seguis and other Filipinos.

On March 7, 2005, the Al-Jazeera network aired the demands of his captors in exchange for his release, while showing a video of Tarongoy in an orange jumpsuit—a sign that he was near execution.

US condemns kidnapping

"I don't want to remember what happened," said Tarongoy, who left for Qatar in June 2004 and a month later went to Baghdad to work for Saudi Arabia Trading Co., which catered food to the Iraqi military.

In a statement posted on its website, the US Embassy said it was pleased to learn of Tarongoy's safe release.

"Our thoughts have been with Mr. Tarongoy and his family throughout his ordeal. We strongly condemn the targeting of civilians such as Mr. Tarongoy and we urge that his captors be brought to justice," the embassy said.

It did not mention Hallum, whose fate was unknown.

In a separate statement, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said "patience, sacrifice and making tough decisions were key" to the return of Tarongoy.

Romulo lauded the work of Seguis and the assistance of "our friends in Iraq and the rest of the Middle East" and the prayers offered by Filipinos.

The secretary also expressed his gratitude to the media in the Middle East, particularly the Al-Jazeera network. He said the network was a "conduit in successfully convincing those concerned that we mean the Iraqi people no harm and only have their future and their best interest in our hearts."

In his Davao hometown, family and friends prepared to celebrate Tarongoy's return. A huge streamer in his house said "Thank you Lord, Welcome home, Bobby." *With reports from Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP, AP*

WELCOME HOME
KUYA BOBBY

A YOUNG nephew of freed hostage Robert Tarongoy waits for his return to their home in the San Pedro Memorial Park compound in Davao City. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

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5 HK exporters of shabu executed

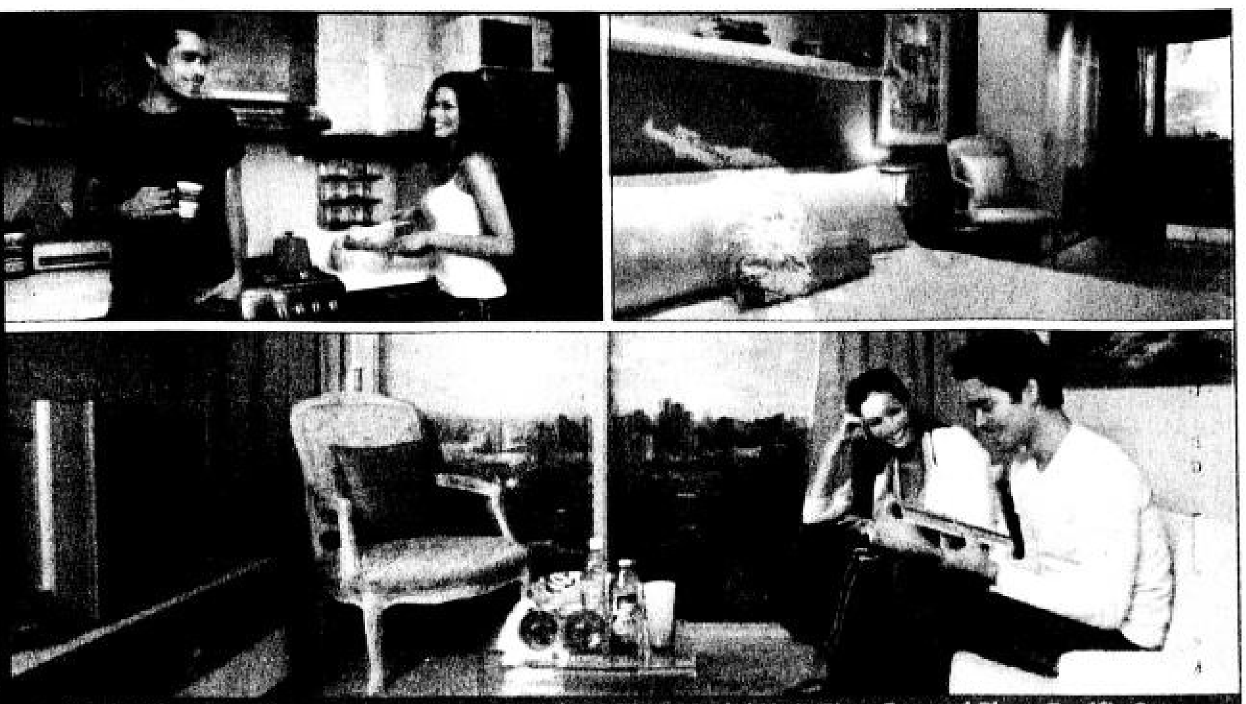
HONG KONG—Five Hong Kong drug dealers were executed in southern China for their alleged involvement in a gang that made 31 metric tons (34 short tons) of the narcotic ice, local newspapers reported Thursday.

The syndicate made its drugs in China and shipped them by boat to the Philippines, Europe and the United States, the Apple Daily said.

Police confiscated about 10 billion Hong Kong dollars (US$1.28 billion) worth of ice, a crystallized form of methamphetamine, the newspaper said. It is known in the Philippines as shabu.

Those executed Wednesday in the city of Shenzhen included the gang's ringleader, Chong Cho-shing, nicknamed "Hong Kong Ice King," the Wen Wei Po newspaper said.

A Shenzhen court press official—who only gave his surname, Wang—said he didn't have any information about the case. *AP*



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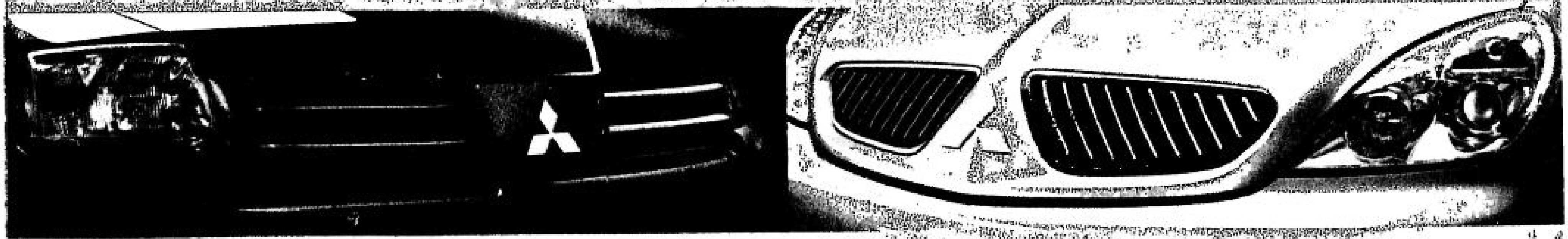

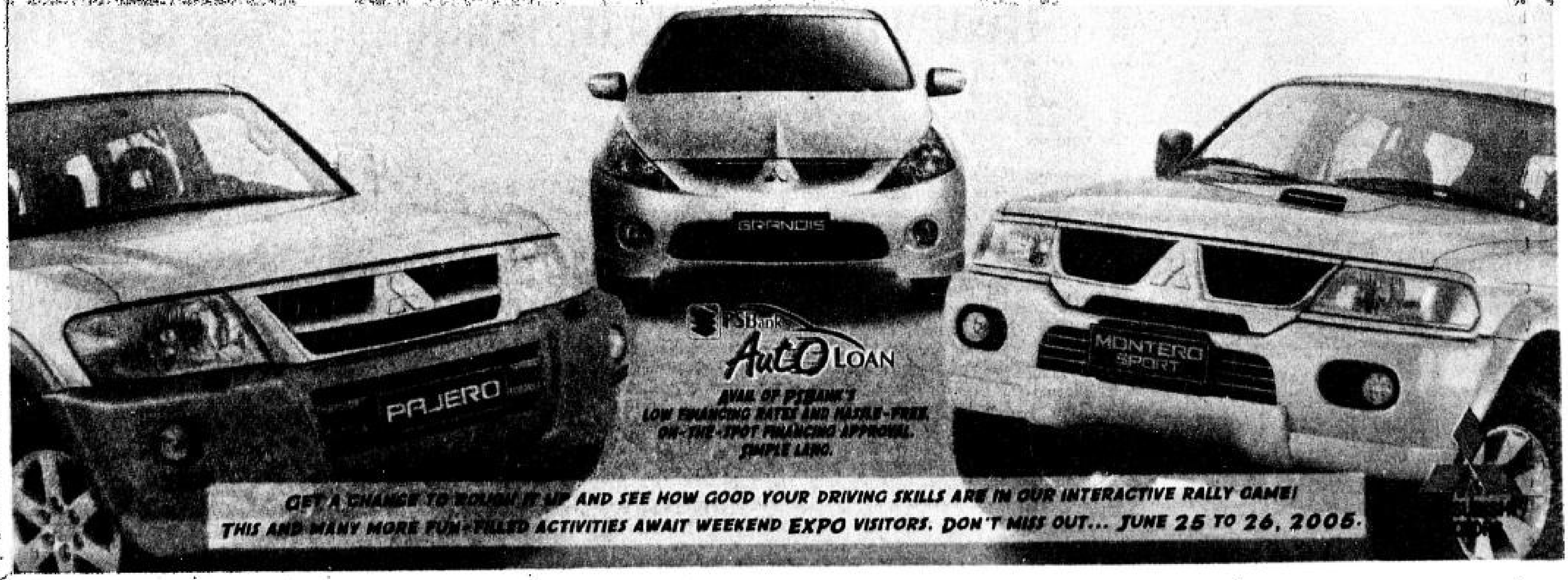

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

6 car bomb attacks kill 40 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Nearly 40 people have died in a rash of car bombings in Iraq's capital over a 12-hour span, including two coordinated blasts early Thursday that killed 15 and wounded 28 more in a central Baghdad shopping district, police said.

The attacks served as a chilling reminder of how potent militants remain in the capital despite around-the-clock American and Iraqi troop patrols.

Thursday's carnage in the capital's Karradah area came on the heels of bloodshed late Wednesday that included four car bombs exploding within minutes of each other. At least 23 people were killed in western Baghdad's Shula neighborhood and a nearby suburb. Nineteen were killed in Shula alone.

Most residents of Karradah and Shula are from Iraq's Shiite majority, while the insurgents are almost exclusively Sunni Arabs, a minority that had dominated Iraq until Saddam Hussein's ouster two years ago.

The explosions on both days were carried out at times when large crowds are on the capital's streets. Wednesday night's bombs came hours before an 11 p.m. curfew when many residents are out at eateries or chatting on the streets before locking themselves inside their homes.

Thursday's twin explosions took place when many are just beginning their daily routines. The attacks in Karradah happened nearly simultaneously, police Lt. Col. Salman Abdul Karim and officer Ahmed Hatam al-Sharie said. Five police officers were among the 15 dead.

A young boy, his left leg missing from below the knee, sat on the sidewalk near a mangled bicycle, screaming as a man tried to comfort him. The force of the blasts blew off store shutters, and the surrounding sidewalks were covered with debris, including shattered glass, concrete slabs and charred vegetables and fruit.

A few trees were toppled, scattering leaves on the sidewalk.

Separately, a car bomb detonated by remote control hit an Iraqi police patrol in Tuz Khormato, north of Baghdad, killing one policeman and wounding seven civilians, police Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qadr said. Tuz Khormato is 55 miles (88 Kilometers) south of the northern city of Kirkuk.

In another incident before dawn Thursday, US troops backed by Iraqi troops and helicopters killed seven insurgents who opened fire on the patrol from a home in western Baghdad's Jamiaa neighborhood, said police Maj. Moussa Abdul Karim and 1st Lt. Mohammed al-Heyaali.

The home was reduced to rubble and US troops standing in front displayed a weapons cache they had seized, including rocket-propelled grenade launchers, machine guns and ammunition.

In all, at least 32 people were killed Wednesday across Iraq, including a prominent Sunni law professor assassinated by gunmen. Jassim al-Issawi was a former judge who put his name forward at one point to join the committee drafting Iraq's constitution. The assassination appeared aimed at intimidating Sunni Arabs willing to join Iraq's efforts to create a stable political system.

Al-Issawi's killing, potentially the most politically significant act of violence since Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari came to office nearly two months ago, marked the first direct attempt to scare moderates away from political participation.

It sent a powerful message to the Sunni Arab community to either boycott involvement in the fledgling government or risk death.

Insurgents bent on starting a civil war to overthrow Iraq's US-backed government have maintained nearly eight weeks of relentless attacks, killing more than 1,240 people since April 28, when al-Jaafari announced his Shiite-dominated government. *AP*

A WOMAN steps from the curb in front of destroyed shops in Baghdad at the scene of a morning double car bombing that killed at least 15 and wounded 28 June 23. More car bombs were set off later. AP

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US Senate rejects forced cuts in greenhouse gas emissions

WASHINGTON—The US Senate on Wednesday soundly rejected a plan to force American industry to cut greenhouse gas emissions, a day after lawmakers approved voluntary reductions backed by the White House.

However, the Senate then approved a nonbinding resolution endorsing a mandatory cap-and-trade system to cut emissions.

The proposals to address global warming emerged in the Senate's debate of a broad energy bill to boost production of US oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear and alternative energy.

Majority Leader Bill Frist said he wanted to wrap up the entire package by the end of this week. Yet to be decided were Democratic amendments that would require better fuel mileage for US cars, including gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles.

After two days of debating how far the nation should go to curb fossil fuel emissions of carbon dioxide linked to global warming, the Senate bowed to pressure from industry groups who feared strict measures would be too costly and eliminate jobs.

The Senate rejected, 60 to 38, a plan offered by Republican John McCain and Democrat Joseph Lieberman which would require a cut in US carbon dioxide output to 2000 levels by 2010. The White House opposes mandatory cuts.

The same proposal failed in 2003 with a vote of 55 to 43.

Environmental groups hailed the vote for a nonbinding resolution on the mandatory cap-and-trade system for emissions cuts as a clear shift in Senate policy toward mandatory action.

"They've crossed the river to embrace mandatory limits and there is no turning back," said David Doniger at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Others said the "sense of the Senate" resolution carries little weight. *Reuters*

SHE MIGHT AS WELL BE SUE
Peruvian Miss World Maria Julia Mantilla, in this Dec. 18, 2004 photo, said on Wednesday she was considering suing a plastic surgeon after he told the press he had given her buttock implants and trimmed her ears which made her win her title. REUTERS

India call centers accused of selling personal data

LONDON—London police were investigating a newspaper claim on Thursday that Britons' confidential personal details, including information about their bank accounts, are being sold by criminals from Indian call centers.

The Sun newspaper said it had bought secret bank details of 1,000 Britons for just 3 pounds ($5.50) each from a computer expert in Delhi who said he had obtained the information from contacts working in call centers.

The paper said its reporter had obtained addresses, passwords, phone numbers and details of credit cards, passports and driving licenses which could be used to raid unsuspecting victim's accounts.

A City of London police spokesperson confirmed they were investigating the allegations.

"While allegations made in the dossier are very serious, City of London Police would like to remind people that incidents of this kind are relatively rare," the spokesperson said.

In recent years many British businesses particularly in the financial services have "outsourced" thousands of administrative jobs to India to save money.

The Sun said the institutions targeted by the criminals included many of Britain's top banks such as HSBC, Barclays, and Lloyds TSB.

The call center worker said he could provide 200,000 account details a month including information about US citizens, the paper said.

The London police spokesperson said "the breadth of what we are going to be investigating" was not clear yet.

Ian Mullen, the British Banking Association's chief executive, said they were concerned about the claims but added staff in India were subject to the same rigorous checks as workers in any other country.

"The quality of staff in these call centers is very high," he told BBC radio. "Bank staff are thoroughly vetted wherever that may be." Finance trade union Amicus said it had been warning about the danger of moving call center jobs to India because it did not have the same data protection measures as Britain.

"What's quite obvious is the banks have rushed forward in search of profits at the expense of consumers' security," an Amicus spokesperson said. *Reuters*

Heat wave deaths in South Asia rise to 390

NEW DELHI—Soaring temperatures have caused more than 390 deaths across South Asia in the past two months, but monsoon rains could bring relief next week, officials said Thursday.

At least seven people collapsed and died Wednesday in the Indian capital, New Delhi, while another 16 have died in the northern provinces of Punjab and Haryana over the past two days, officials said.

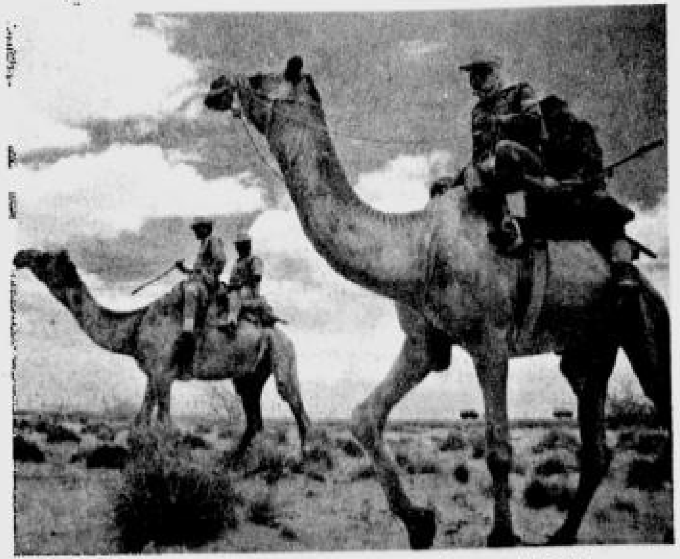
That has brought India's death toll from the heat wave to about 300 over the past two months, the officials said. They added that most of the victims were old people and the poor, who lack proper shelter from temperatures that climbed Wednesday to 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in New Delhi, Punjab and Haryana.

Many places in northern India were facing acute water shortages, with wells and ponds going dry and government water supplies running short. The problem has been made worse by power cuts that shut off fans and water pumps. In the town of Kurukshetra in Haryana, irate residents blocked the main highway for several hours Wednesday to protest power outages and a lack of drinking water.

Meteorologists said temperatures in India were at least 5 degrees Celsius (41 Fahrenheit) above normal.

In neighboring Pakistan, temperatures reached 48 degrees Celsius (118 Fahrenheit) and left more than 60 people dead this week, mostly in the eastern province of Punjab. Most died from sunstroke and dehydration, said Javed Ashgar, a provincial health official.

In Bangladesh, 32 people have died in the heat wave, but temperatures have eased in the past week with the onset of monsoon rains. *AP*



INDIAN Border Security Force soldiers patrol near the India-Pakistan border at Vigokot, about 558 km west of Ahmadabad, India, June 22. AP

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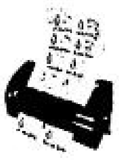

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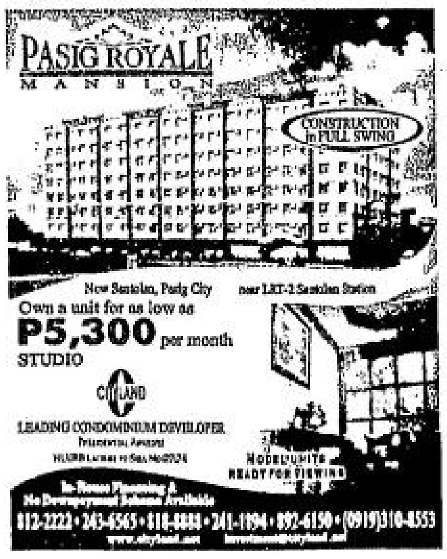
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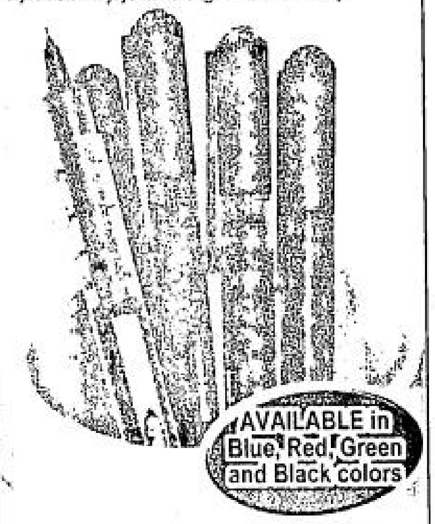
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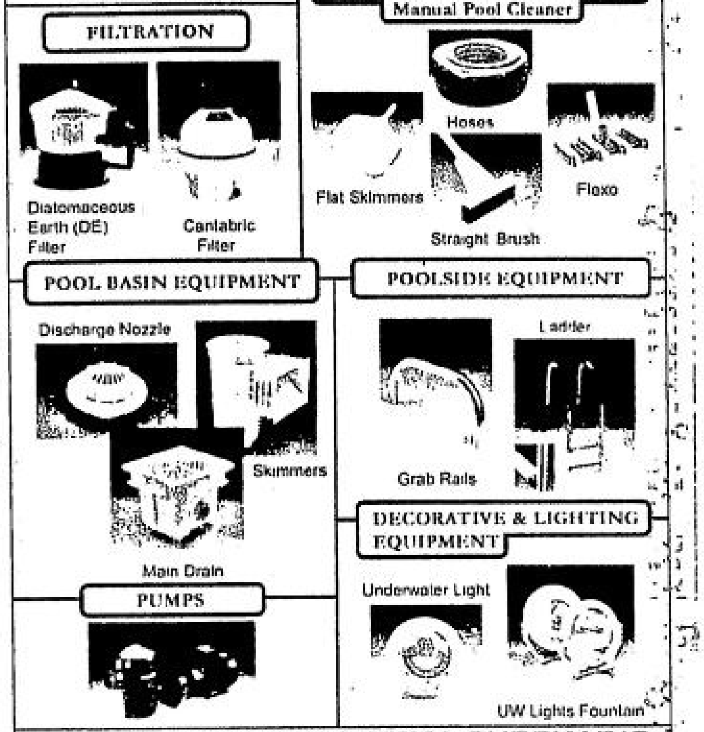
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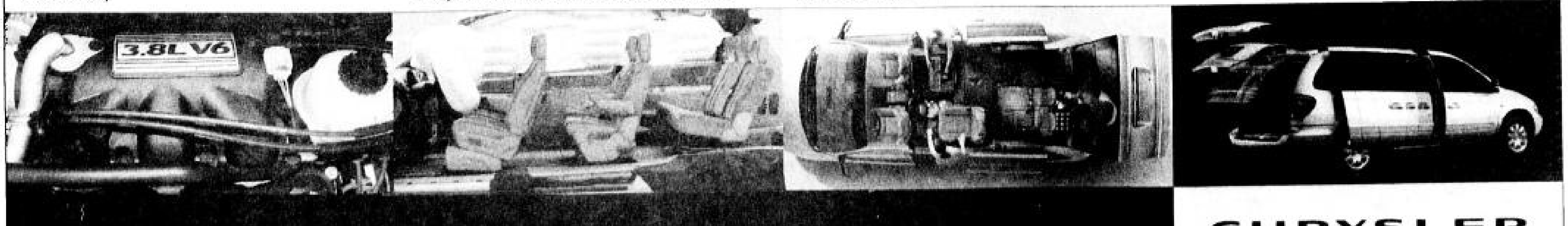

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Ebdane ribs opposition: It's New Jersey in QC

From page A1

brushed aside the opposition's allegations that he had spirited former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano out to Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia, and then brought him to New Jersey in the United States last weekend.

"If I went to New Jersey, it must have been to New Jersey (Street) in Cubao, (Quezon City). Besides, the DPWH has no money to fund my air fare," Ebdane joked after attending Mass on the occasion of the 107th anniversary of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

[New Jersey Street is actually in New Manila, Quezon City.—Ed.]

It was the first time Ebdane faced DPWH employees since last Friday when rumors spread that the DPWH secretary had escorted Garcillano out of the country.

For nearly three weeks, the opposition has been claiming that alleged wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Garcillano showed that the two had conspired to rig the 2004 presidential election.

On Sunday, former Sen. Francisco Tatad claimed Ebdane flew Garcillano and his wife out of Cagayan de Oro City the previous day for the Malaysian city of Kota Kinabalu in Sabah. Other opposition sources spread the rumor through text messages that the Garcillanos' final destination was New Jersey on the US East Coast, where the couple's daughter purportedly lives.

Tatad said the alleged departure of Garcillano with Ebdane was "an obvious attempt to cover the crimes described in the now-famous Arroyo-Garcillano tape."

The obvious, however, became obscure on Monday when Ebdane showed up at Villamor Air Base to see Ms Arroyo off on her one-day trip to Hong Kong. Just a case of loose bowel movement, Ebdane told reporters in reply to their queries why he had made himself scarce on Sunday.

Yesterday, Ebdane confirmed that he did make a trip to Cagayan de Oro last Saturday.

Asked whether the matter he attended to was a DPWH concern, he replied: "Public works and personal. Nothing political."

Even so, he asked reporters not to play up his trip to Cagayan de Oro because his wife was getting suspicious.

"We should not talk about it because Mrs. Ebdane is getting angry that I may have been visiting someone there. But I had some other things to follow up," the secretary said.

Ebdane said he was still considering whether to file libel charges against Tatad.

But even as Ebdane surfaced, rumors on the whereabouts of Garcillano continued to swirl. The latest text message received by the INQUIRER from opposition sources said that the former election commissioner did not fly to Kota Kinabalu but to Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

Death leaves vacuum in Church, says Cruz

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DEATH of Jaime Cardinal Sin has left a vacuum in the Catholic Church and the man who will take his place has yet to be born, according to Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

Speaking with members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) at the Manila Hotel, the outspoken prelate said he had once told Sin his observation. "To me, that is true up to now," he said yesterday.

Cruz, who is waging a crusade against "jueteng," had been compared with Sin even when the latter was still alive.

He may not have Sin's charisma and overwhelming presence, but like the cardinal, he can be brutally frank and has no qualms about clashing with the rich and powerful, including President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Earlier, he said jueteng had become a P13-billion-a-year industry under the Arroyo administration.

'I don't want it'

Like Sin, Cruz respects the separation of Church and State, but does not hold back whenever the situation calls for the guidance, if not the concrete participation, of the Church.

"A Church that keeps quiet when things are wrong, when social issues are serious, when human rights are under siege, when people are starving, when the poor are being taxed more in order to serve them, when freedom of speech is being curtailed, and when the truth is being covered—I don't want that Church. You can have it," he told Focap.

But Cruz told the INQUIRER that he could never measure up to Sin, with whom he worked in different capacities in the past.

"I can never be like him," he said. "The man was big. He was bigger than life."

Unique

Bataan Bishop Socrates Villegas said the cardinal was both "ecclesiastic and patriotic," and unique in Philippine history.

"I don't think we will have [another] man of his stature, courage and heroism right away," Villegas told reporters at the Manila Cathedral on Wednesday night. "In our lifetime, we were lucky to have met Cardinal Sin."

But Villegas said that "for all of [Sin's] political activism, he was always hesitant in his involvement in politics. It was not a joy for him."

The reluctance brought Sin much closer to prayer, and "that is why his positions on corruption and politics ended up always blessed by the Lord," Villegas said.

"The cardinal's involvement in politics went beyond political tactics and science. It was grounded in prayer and discernment," he said, adding that his mentor "perfectly combined prayer and activism."

Sin's legacy lives on in statue, 20 shrines

From page A1

Philippine society.

Sin served as a beacon for Filipinos in difficult times—from the regime of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the debates on population control and the proposed amendment of the Constitution during President Fidel Ramos' administration, to the "jueteng" scandal that forced President Joseph Estrada out of Malacañang.

Birthday present

According to Munda, Villegas had intended the statue as a present for Sin on his 76th birthday on Aug. 31 last year, but acquiesced to Abueva's request for more time to work on it.

Sin was relatively still in good health at the time.

Almost a year later, the statue was set up in the "Village of Sin." The unveiling was planned to coincide with the celebration of the community fiesta on Sunday, Munda said.

Sin's death early Tuesday prompted Villegas to unveil the statue the same day.

Munda said it had since been drawing mourners, even from outside the Punta community. He said the mourners had been praying the rosary every hour.

Sin actually saw the statue when he made an unannounced visit to the village two Saturdays before his death.

"He was standing in front of the chapel, unaware that the towering figure beside him actually bore his image," Munda recounted in Filipino. "He was so surprised when we pulled off the covering. He was very happy."

Sin's gift

It had become Sin's habit to visit Punta to oversee the construction of apartment buildings, a school and a chapel at the two-hectare community.

The village was the former Manila archbishop's gift to the poorest residents of Sta. Ana, one of the most impoverished barangays in the metropolis, during his 76th birthday.

Each of a total of 84 families is now staying in a 21-square-meter "condominium" unit in the first apartment building.

A second building is scheduled for completion in time for Sin's 77th birth anniversary in August.

Marian shrines

Three years ago, Sin envisioned building 20 shrines, one for each mystery of the rosary, to lead Filipinos to the way of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He did not live to see the completion of his wish, but his vision will live on, according to Joe Magsaysay, a Marian devotee and one of the project coordinators.

The Way of Mary Shrines will be built along Ortigas Avenue all the way to the Antipolo Cathedral, Magsaysay said in a phone interview.

The shrines, with bas-relief images sculpted by the Angono-based muralist and sculptor Nemesio Miranda Jr., will be mounted on pedestals 6 feet wide, 12 feet high and 2 feet thick built by architect Joey Amistoso.

Sin's birthday in August—or, if not that, the Virgin Mary's birthday on Sept. 8—is the target date of completion.

"We were hoping that the cardinal could bless the whole thing," Magsaysay said. "But with his death, there was more reason to finish the project and present "a concrete manifestation of his dream."

Magsaysay said it was sufficient comfort that Sin was able to see the first shrine at the Edsa Shrine.

Already in frail health then, the cardinal attended the unveiling ceremony on the feast of the Annunciation on April 27.

Innovation

Miranda said a brief inscription of Sin's vision would be engraved at the base of each pedestal—"an innovation that we will add in his memory."

When the shrines are finished, a chain of people along the 14-km stretch of Ortigas all the way to Antipolo City will pray the rosary for Sin, he said.

Magsaysay said the shrines would be the cardinal's "legacy to the Christian people."

"Although he is gone, we will continue with the project," Magsaysay said.

He said a coffee table book bearing the names of the donors would be produced, and a miniature shrine replica with a thank-you note from the cardinal would be distributed to each of them.

"In that way, people will be reminded of him," Magsaysay said.

Capiz resolution

In Capiz, the provincial board passed on Wednesday a resolution mourning Sin and honoring his memory.

The resolution authored by Board Member Vladimir Tanco, president of the Sangguniang Kabataan provincial federation, praised Sin for his role in the two "people power" revolts that ousted two presidents and for bravely steering Filipinos in their struggle against oppression and evil.

It noted that as a missionary priest on the islands of Panay and Romblon, Sin raised funds for the establishment of the St. Pius X Seminary in Roxas City.

Sin was the first rector of the seminary, coadjutor and later archbishop of Jaro in Iloilo City.

With a report from Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

Fil-Am genius, 15, here to relax, unwind

From page A1

Filipino-American Joriz de Guzman has been a staple in the California media for his remarkable academic achievements, the latest of which was being the youngest among the 3,400 students of Cal State University of San Bernardino (CSUSB) who received their college diplomas last Sunday.

According to the school's website (web.csci.csusb.edu), Joriz received a 3.9 GPA, graduating with high honors.

The school said Joriz would go directly for his Ph.D., skipping a master's degree, after UC-Santa Barbara determined that he could handle the pressure of doctorate work.

Joriz, by the way, skipped the third and sixth grades and all of high school, and enrolled in a college while attending seventh grade when he was just nine years old.

At 11, he enrolled at Cal State San Bernardino, taking up double majors in computer science and math.

The school's website also announced that Joriz and his parents, Edwin and Tess, would take a three-week vacation in the Philippines before he starts graduate school.

The visit includes a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The De Guzmans arrived in Manila on board Philippine Airlines' flight PR103 from Los Angeles at 5:30 a.m. yesterday.

R and R

They said they were here to "relax and unwind."

Good-looking and 5'10," only child Joriz hardly seems like your typical geek. His favorite sport is basketball and he knows kung fu.

He speaks fluent Filipino and he has visited his parents' motherland for a vacation three times.

The father Edwin, a respiratory therapist, said his family spent the holidays here last year so Joriz could experience the New Year revelry.

This time around, aside from being given the chance to meet the President, Joriz is reportedly scheduled to give speeches at public schools, and become essentially a "poster boy" for education.

Available

Cal State also said Joriz was one of two students chosen as 2004-05 Outstanding Undergraduate for CSUSB's College of Natural Sciences.

He has tutored many Cal State students, including members of the university's basketball team.

And here's another interesting fact for the girls: Joriz does not have a girlfriend—yet.

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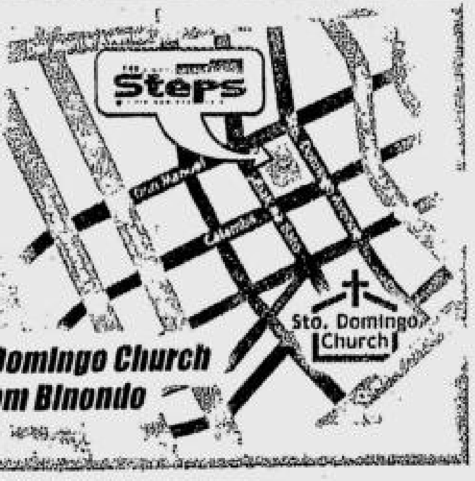

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Parliamentary immaturity

EDITORIAL

WITHOUT intending any disrespect to either PTAs or civic associations, it seems any ad hoc civic gathering is more capable of having orderly proceedings than the House of Representatives. For three days now, the Filipino people have seen democracy in inaction. We won't name names, because the general behavior of our congressmen has generally been undeserving of public notice; but we believe public opinion is nearly unanimous as to the disgraceful, unprofessional nature of the House hearings so far.

While Rep. Gilbert Remulla has attempted a yeoman's job of chairing the proceedings, he has gotten very little help from his smart-alecky colleagues, who seem incapable of even the most elementary self-control once a microphone is shoved in front of them. There is much that can be done to pave the way for more orderly proceedings, if the congressmen only bothered to thresh out in caucus all procedural matters prior to the hearings themselves.

Instead, the public has been subjected not to a demonstration of legislative inquiry, but a rather spectacular showing of profound procedural ignorance. It would seem that the members of a chamber with ambitions of transforming itself into a unicameral parliamentary body think an ignorance of basic parliamentary procedure is excusable. It is not. The basic obligation of a parliamentarian is to master parliamentary procedure. Those in the House who think parliamentary procedure is immaterial and irrelevant don't deserve the salaries they receive from the people.

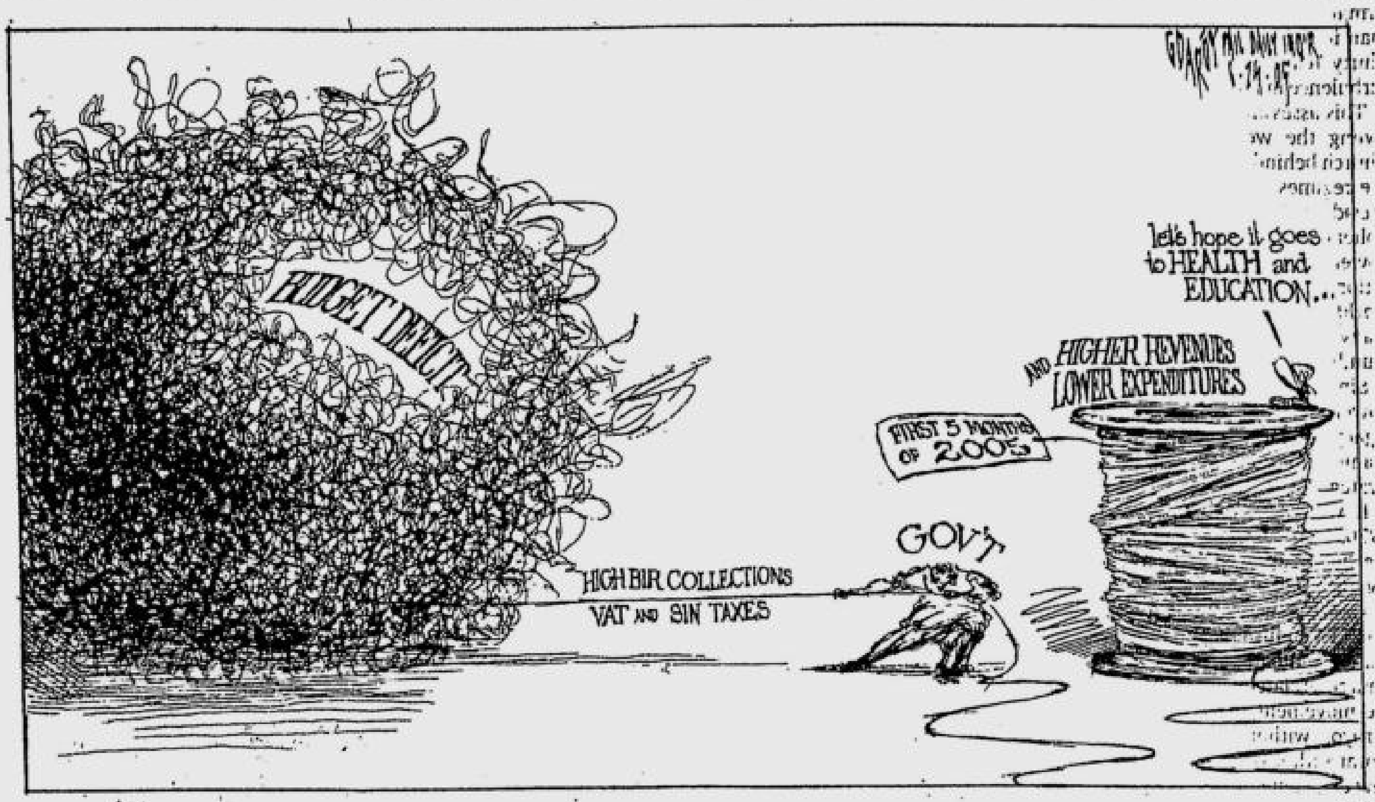
Over the past three days, the House hearings have produced little by way of actual testimony, and too much by way of nit-picking and know-it-all grandstanding. What could have been probing, beneficial interpellations of administration "resource persons" such as Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation and Arroyo administration critics such as the controversial lawyer, Alan Paguia, have been repeatedly derailed by bickering among the members of the five committees holding joint hearings.

Indeed, the testimony of both administration and opposition figures on the matter of the wiretapped tapes is merely the opening act to what will—and should—engage the nation's attention: the calling of legal luminaries. These legal luminaries will be called in to advise the House on how it—and the country—should view the issue of the tapes in accordance with jurisprudence both here and abroad. Their opinions will be necessary for a public seeking clarification of the true implications of the Anti-Wire Tapping Law, and whether or not its provisions can be tempered by modern-day realities, and a Constitution different from the one in force when the law was enacted.

So many sectors, from those in government to members of the media, practitioners of law and the public at large, remain paralyzed by uncertainty as to the proper interpretation of the law. The moral issues seem clearer, but what is moral must also be legal. At least this is the instinct of most people, and it is an instinct that deserves illumination from our best legal minds.

As it stands, public and political pressure to widely air the tapes has not dissipated. Members of Congress, whether out of political or legal caution, are concerned that they may be a party to breaking the law. Their concerns, at the very least, deserve to be addressed, as are concerns raised by such legal luminaries as retired Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, who in a recent statement said the House is not the proper venue for such proceedings.

Finally and quite correctly, the House committees have decided to ascertain the legal aspects of the situation and engage legal luminaries in helping it ascertain the parameters within which it can operate. From there, armed with a greater appreciation for the boundaries established by law, these committees can proceed to have a hearing in aid of legislation. Along the way, this will, we hope, afford the committee chairs the chance to give their members a crash course on how to run orderly and productive meetings. Otherwise, the only hearing taking place is that before public opinion—which finds our representatives woefully wanting.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As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WHY is the administration so afraid that people should listen to the contents of the wiretapped tapes? The answer can only be because they will expose the President's cheating in the elections. So the House investigation into the controversial tapes is turning out to be a repeat of the canvassing in Congress of the votes for president and vice president.

In the canvassing, administration legislators used every technicality to block the opening of the ballot boxes so that the real number of votes cast for each candidate was never known. In the tapes investigation, administration congressmen are using every technicality to prevent the playing of the tapes for the members of the committees.

Another reason is that the hearings are televised. When politicians see a camera, they cannot resist the urge to grandstand, knowing that thousands are watching, including the folks back home. So even if a congressman has nothing sensible to say, he just has to have his 15 minutes of TV time. So the hearings proceed very, very slowly because of the grandstanding.

After two days of hearings, the only important witness who was able to testify was Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. I didn't know that lying is contagious and that Malacañang is heavily contaminated. While Bunye was testifying, there was a violent thunderstorm and lightning flashed angrily outside. For Bunye contradicted everything he had said earlier in a press conference, duly recorded on videotape, with Malacañang reporters—that he knew the source of the tapes and that the woman whose voice on the tapes was the President. If he is subjected to a polygraph test, the machine might just blow up.

Stop the live broadcast of the hearings and the investigation may proceed faster.

* * *

Upon the suggestion of Mayor Lito Atienza, the Freedom Park where anybody can speak freely on public affairs without fear of arrest or prosecution, will be located at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, not at Plaridel Park in Malate. At the latter park, only playing children will hear the speakers, he said, but in Quiapo, many adult commuters, shoppers, vendors and church-goers will listen to them. Indeed, Plaza Miranda has always been known for fiery speeches because of which, whenever a controversial policy or contract is being considered, this question is inevitably asked by the policymaker: "Can we defend this at Plaza Miranda?"

Atienza proposed the spot beneath the obelisk as the Speaker's Corner. A Freedom Park for free speech is being proposed by Samahang Plaridel and proceeds from Monday's 20th anniversary dinner-show of the Kapihan sa Manila will go to the project.

Willie Nepomuceno and his friends and the Philippines' top singers will star in the show. It will be held at the Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion on June 27, starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are still available at the Manila Hotel and at Samahang Plaridel's clubhouse and Front Page Piano Bar on T.M. Kalaw Street.

* * *

I read in the papers that coco diesel is being used to generate electricity somewhere in the south, steam from sugar centrals are also being used to generate electricity, and windmills are also generating power in the Ilocos coast. The Department of Energy also announced a policy to use more hydroelectric, geothermal and coal plants for power generation to lessen our dependence on imported and increasingly expensive oil. Very good.

The age of more and more costly oil is here. Fossil fuels—and this includes coal, oil shale and natural gas—are exhaustible energy sources. It is estimated that the world's supply of oil will last for only 10 or 20 more years. New explorations are yielding less and less. That is why the oil exporting countries are increasing the prices of their oil.

It is important for the world to look for inexhaustible and renewable sources of power. The wind, waves, water, tides, sun, biogas and geothermal are already being used in limited quantities to generate electricity. But what do you use to fuel motor vehicles? Alcohol and coconut oil. Luckily for the Philippines, we produce plenty of coconuts from which is extracted cocodiesel, and plenty of sugarcane, cassava, sweet potatoes and corn, good sources of alcohol. In fact, any starchy or sugar-containing plant, when fermented, will produce alcohol.

Alcohol to fuel motor vehicles, or ethanol, is now being used by 13 countries as a mix to gasoline. Brazil is the biggest producer and user of sugarcane-based ethanol; the United States (corn-based) is the second, and India (sugarcane-based) is the third. Canada, Thailand and Australia are also using ethanol while Japan, China and South Korea are already starting their ethanol program.

In the Philippines, Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri has filed a bill that seeks to carry out an ethanol program. The committee on energy has already approved it and it is due for voting by the plenary.

The beauty of ethanol and cocodiesel is that they won't be exhausted and will lessen dependence on imported oil. Moreover, it is clean fuel and will reduce pollution, smog and greenhouse gases.

Best of all, it will increase employment and farm income in the countryside as more and more people go into the planting, harvesting, and processing of feedstock into ethanol. Coconut farmers, among the poorest of Filipino farmers, will earn more from the production of cocodiesel.

The price of OPEC oil has already overtaken the price of ethanol and will soon overtake that of cocodiesel. Thus, using more of our indigenous motor fuel will eventually be cheaper.

Low-intensity martial law

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE DRAFTERS of the Constitution were determined never again to suffer the indignities of martial rule, and wrote into our charter so many safeguards to restrain the commander-in-chief powers of the president. But they could not have anticipated the neatest way around these safeguards: don't call it "martial law," and just go ahead and do it.

Sociology professor and quintessential public intellectual Randy David lamented, at a forum at the UP College of Law the other day, that what we have now is "undeclared martial law." That precisely is the danger.

The police have raided a printing press and have confiscated posters dealing with our burgeoning foreign debt burden (with the slogan "Palayain ang bayan sa utang") and on President Macapagal-Arroyo as "President Evil" (a takeoff from the videogame Resident Evil, with a cartoon depicting her as the villain who battled the Pinay superheroine Darna). Both posters reportedly belonged to the Freedom from Debt Coalition, a non-government organization that has been in existence since 1988 when Cory Aquino was still president. Over the years, it has issued critical but certainly responsible commentary on the political economy of foreign debt. Moreover, students caught distributing "Gloriagate" CDs in the University Belt have been arrested and charged with inciting to sedition. The justice secretary has threatened to arrest anyone who distributes or plays the tapes or even merely plays the "Hello, Garci" ring tone for cell phones.

"Freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press" is one of the cherished liberties we regained at Edsa I. The Bill of Rights ensures that it is not for the state to determine the truth, and that the "best test of the truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in competition of the market." It counsels respect even for the thought we hate, that which we "loathe and believe to be fraught with death ... unless they so imminently threaten immediate interference with the lawful and pressing purposes of the law that an immediate check is required to save the country."

The government has claimed the duty of the state to preserve public order, but first it must satisfy the "clear and present danger" test adopted in Philippine constitutional law: "The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent. It is a question of proximity and degree."

The freedom-of-speech clause builds on the premise that if the problem is false speech, the solution is more speech and that, in the words of Brandeis, "fitting remedy for evil counsels is good ones." He concludes that "sunlight is the best disinfectant." The only exception—that is to say, the only time when speech may be curtailed—is when the peril is so imminent, so close, that further speech won't solve the problem, and the classic example is falsely "crying 'Fire!' in a crowded theater."

If martial law is officially declared, then Congress is automatically empowered to review and revoke it, and it can be challenged before the courts. Undeclared, the arrests and the "invitations" to questioning have their chilling effect on liberty. In the words of the US Supreme Court: "That this Court will ultimately vindicate [a person] if his speech is constitutionally protected is of little consequence, for the value of a sword of Damocles is that it hangs—not that it drops."

Yet this is not the first time that this government has resorted to legal subterfuge to circumvent the law's checks and balances. The President has done it twice: in 2001 after the "Edsa III" assault on Malacañang and in 2003 after the Oakwood incident. Instead of declaring martial law or suspending the writ of habeas corpus (her only two options under the Constitution), what she did was to declare a "state of rebellion."

The 2001 declaration was challenged before the Supreme Court, but GMA lifted the state of rebellion and the case was mooted, over objections by some justices that the dispute was "capable of repetition but evading review." True enough, it was repeated two years later, and again the Palace attempted to moot the case. This time, the Court spoke: "[A] declaration of a state of rebellion is an utter superfluity. At most, it only gives notice ... that such a state exists and that the armed forces may be called to prevent or suppress it. Perhaps the declaration may wreak emotional effects upon the perceived enemies of the State [but] this Court's mandate is to probe only into the legal consequences of the declaration. This Court finds that such a declaration is devoid of any legal significance. For all legal intents, the declaration is deemed not written."

This is all about our schizoid attitude to laws. When it comes to the commander-in-chief powers, Malacañang plays fast and loose with the rules; it issues grand declarations that the Supreme Court has found to be "utter superfluity," or nonchalantly silences government critics. When it comes to the commander-in chief's duty to honor her vow "to preserve and defend its Constitution [and] do justice to every man" (Article VII, sec. 5), the commander seems glued to the tightest, most literal reading of the rules, apparently in the hope that a presidential "dead-ma" will lead to a legal dead-end.

* * *

Comments to raulcp@gndee.net

After Sin, the age of pigmies

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AT THE HEIGHT of the people power movement between Edsa I and II, some senior prelates at the Vatican curia were reported to have remarked that Jaime Cardinal Sin of the Philippines was the shrewdest politician in the Church since Cardinal Armand-Jean du Plessis de Richelieu, a statesman in the service of King Louis XIII during the Thirty Years War, a period of profound political turbulence in Europe.

This assessment of Cardinal Sin came after he swung the weight of the Philippine Catholic Church behind the mass movements that toppled the regimes of President Ferdinand Marcos and President Joseph Estrada in bloodless political upheavals, one which was the seminal People Power Revolution of 1986 that became the inspiration of people power in other parts of the world, notably the peaceful rising in East Germany in 1989 that caused the Berlin Wall to crumble.

Sin's pivotal role in the two successful people power movements is the most important political legacy of his stewardship of the Archdiocese of Manila, the local Church's richest and most strategic power base.

It was during Sin's reign, that spanned the 1970s and the 1990s, when the Church reached the height of its political interventionism. This legacy has cast a long shadow on Philippine politics and his success in political activism has clearly left an enduring mark, as attested to by the fact that in emulation of Sin's political role, lesser Church prelates are now engaging the Church in the movement to depose President Macapagal-Arroyo, without his pervasive influence and moral authority and with less elan. Ironically, the new engagement is directed at a political leadership which Sin helped install in Edsa II. These prelates have a hard act to follow and their efforts at political engagement will always be measured against and will be cast in the shadow of Sin's extraordinary successes in political interventionism.

Any attempt to reassert the Church's historical role in intervening in state affairs in the current political crisis will suffer from the vacuum left by Sin. The death of the towering, inspiring and inspired Church leader reduces to pigmies prelates who aspire to wear his mantle and who are now engaged in political agitation. As far as the Church is concerned, the age of giants has receded in the Philippines, as well as in the Vatican following the departure of Pope John Paul II.

Sin elevated the level of Church intervention in state affairs to unprecedented heights in influencing political outcomes despite the constitutional boundaries separating Church and the State. Sin breached this divide with impunity, while at the same time, mobilizing popular anti-regime movements, without the masses and even educated class being aware of it or, put another way, they closed their eyes to these breaches. During the Spanish period, when the colonial State and the Church overlapped, conflicts between the archbishop of Manila and the Spanish governor general ended in bloody encounters.

During the martial law period and up to 2001, two important Philippine institutions—the Church and the military—competed head-to-head in their record of political intervention in deposing or attempts to depose a sitting government.

The Church intervened in Edsa I and Edsa II with remarkable success. The military also intervened in Edsa I and II. Intervention in Edsa I, triggered by the Enrile-Ramos led mutiny, snowballed into a mass movement against Marcos following Sin's call to the people to assemble and protect Juan Ponce Enrile and Fidel V. Ramos inside Camp Crame. During the Aquino government, six military interventions through six coup attempts, failed. Again in Edsa, military intervention, in the form of withdrawal of support of the military high command from the Estrada government, led to the collapse of his regime. However, military withdrawal came only after a mass movement led by civil organizations, responding to the call of Sin to mass at Edsa.

The emergence of the Church and the military as the two key institutions which could decide the fate of governments, under siege from widespread public protest, was a consequence of the failure and abolition of political institutions which prior to martial law, were pillars of parliamentary democracy: the closure of Congress and the dissolution of the two-party system. The Church stepped into this vacuum left by formal political institutions to provide a counterweight to the military which was the cornerstone of Marcos' authoritarian regime. This role of the Church as a substitute for Congress and political parties gave the interventionist disposition of Sin the environment in which to develop the Church as the voice of the people against regime abuses and as defender of human rights of people who have been deprived of their political liberties.

In most of his interventions, Sin took a prudent approach bereft of the reckless demagoguery of lesser prelates. Even so, interventions in less than profound political issues and less than crisis situations have given rise to questions that the Church was intervening too often and more than necessary.

During the last few weeks, there were efforts to make Sin make a pronouncement on the issues of *jueteng* and the tapes purporting to show alleged cheating during the last election. To the very end, Sin's prudence prevailed. According to his brother, Dr. Ramon Sin, the cardinal was waiting for more information and clearer evidence on the taped conversations.

Frustrated fathers

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FATHERS have come in for some attention these past few days, mainly because of the celebration of Father's Day, which like Mother's Day is really an occasion concocted by marketers but which we willingly, if not gleefully dive into, if only to acknowledge the role mothers and fathers play in our lives.

Articles written for the occasion have focused on all kinds of fathers—those with large families, those with multiple families, fathers playing "nontraditional" roles, stepfathers, single fathers, young fathers, elderly fathers, gay fathers.

What about men who want to be fathers, or fathers again, but for some reason find themselves unable to sire offspring? Male infertility and male impotence are little-recognized and much less talked-about reproductive health issues, especially when compared to the issue of women's fertility, or rather the need to "control" and "limit" it.

But as reproductive health advocates have been saying time and again, "reproductive health" covers a wide range of concerns and conditions around the issue of reproduction, and not just family planning or abortion, or to be more specific about it, "prevention of abortion and management of its complications." Men's reproductive health concerns, for instance, include family planning (though only very few methods are meant for use by men), prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, urologic conditions, sexuality and sexual dysfunction, and infertility. (Young men are also covered by "adolescent reproductive health.") In addition, writes Rey Carmelo Remonde, advocacy specialist with the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP), "men can play an important role in preventing gender-based violence, a significant reproductive health concern in many areas, and in supporting efforts to improve women's status."

* * *

"THE ROAD to conception is not always smooth," writes Remonde, though he notes that in many instances infertility can be prevented or avoided, while treatments for both male and female infertility are increasingly available.

Men also have an advantage over women in that age doesn't play as big a role in causing their infertility as it does for women. The older a woman is, the less likely she is to conceive, and of course after menopause pregnancy is nearly impossible. Men, on the other hand, can in theory sire a child even through old age.

About a third of infertility cases can be traced to problems with the male partner, says Remonde. But to be sure a couple seeking treatment for infertility should see a specialist to determine the cause and assess the treatment options.

As Remonde describes it, the first procedure is usually to analyze the man's semen. A laboratory, working from a sample, will measure the quantity and quality of the sperm and, depending on the results, the fertility specialist might refer the man to a urologist for further evaluation and management, especially when no sperm is found in the semen. Treatment options depend on the specific cause, and can range from hormonal treatments, surgery and intracytoplasmic sperm injections (ICSI).

"Exposure to environmental toxins, including lead and pesticides, may also cause infertility," says Remonde. "Heat is another factor. The (normal) temperature in the testicles is lower than body temperature... If testicles are exposed to higher temperatures over a period of time, sperm production may be reduced or cease altogether." Indeed, some experts blame tight jeans, which not only constrict the testicles but also confine them in a heated environment.

* * *

ERECTILE dysfunction may be another cause of infertility for men. It is defined as "the inability of a man to attain and maintain an erection sufficient for sexual intercourse," and is more commonly called impotence.

Impotence is more common in men over 65, but it can occur at any age. "It is normal for men to experience changes in erectile function," writes Remonde, "such as taking longer (than usual) to achieve an erection." It becomes a matter of serious concern when impotence is permanent or frequent, and can be the harbinger of a physical or emotional problem.

Erectile dysfunction is often traced to problems with a man's circulatory system, when blood flow to the penis which is necessary to produce an erection, is impeded by any number of factors, including diabetes and high cholesterol levels. Smoking has also been increasingly blamed for erectile dysfunction since it has been found to cause narrowing of blood vessels.

Since the hormone testosterone is important to achieving erection, and testosterone production starts falling with age, inadequate levels in older men may also be a cause of impotence.

While there are drugs and treatments that can address problems with circulation and erectile dysfunction, to my mind it would take more than a "blue pill" to address erectile dysfunction caused by kinks in the relationship or emotional baggage of one or both partners. For this, counseling might be necessary, though some counselors say merely changing your environment—taking a holiday to free yourselves from the pressures of work and children, for instance—might be enough to do the trick.

* * *

AS REMONDE reminds: "All persons, male and female, have the right to information and education. Everyone has the right to access to education and correct information related to his/her sexual and reproductive health which are gender sensitive, free from stereotypes and presented in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner."

And, I might add, everyone deserves to have his problems, which are of serious concern to him, discussed seriously and objectively, without moralism or sniggers.

World expos

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AICHI—Twenty-five years ago, on my first trip to Japan, I visited the World Exposition in Osaka. It was then known as Expo '70 and its distinguishing landmark was a tower with a mythological sun, a golden orb with a human face on a white stand that resembled the lower part of an albino dolphin.

Childhood memories play tricks on me today, and I'm glad I kept a diary (now lovingly conserved in the University of the Philippines Archives) to remind me of what I saw and felt at the time. If I remember correctly my first complicated English word was "panoramic." My mother dictated some parts she wanted in my diary and I realize now that it was also a difficult word for her. In retrospect she probably read a tourist brochure aloud for our edification.

I do remember getting lost in the crowd, but being able to find my way to the Swiss pavilion where we were scheduled to have lunch. By the time my worried parents arrived in the restaurant I was halfway through my duck confit. One can only imagine the gratifying feeling of having found something that was lost.

Children were then supplied with a "passport" that you stamped with the different "visas" of the countries whose pavilions you visited. One of the prettiest ones came from the Soviet pavilion whose contents I vaguely remember, unlike the US pavilion which had a moon rock as well as one of the bucket seats used on Apollo 11, the mission when man first walked on the moon.

The Philippine pavilion in Expo '70 was a graceful architectural wonder by Leandro V. Locsin who, contrary to Filipino sensitivity, kept the interiors stark and simple. One could say that it had Japanese sensibility in its marked restraint. Left to someone without imagination, every available space would be filled just as we have a riot of colors on jeepneys. The predictable pictures of beaches and smiling Filipinas were there to lure Japanese tourists to our shores, but there were some choice pieces of Philippine painting and sculpture that may not have been much appreciated at the time, but will fetch six- to eight-figure prices (in dollars) if placed on international auction today.

Expositions have been the subject of some academic study because these places are not just amusement parks, but are a reflection of how one people sees another, or how one people tries to project one image but be read differently by another. This clash of cultures and interpretations can be quite engaging especially if people are studying expositions of a century ago.

The Eiffel Tower, which has come to symbolize Paris, was an engineering marvel in the late 19th century and yet when you look at the letters and diaries of Filipino patriots who visited the Paris Exposition—Jose Rizal, Juan Luna, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, or Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera—nobody makes any reference to it at all. The Eiffel Tower may be a landmark tourist attraction today, but some French were very vocal against it. It is said that the writer Flaubert had lunch in the tower restaurant every day, not because he liked the food but because it was the only place in Paris where he could not see it. In this way he kept his aesthetic sensibilities and his sanity.

History tells us that our patriots visited the US pavilion in Paris and watched a rodeo where cowboys and Indians did amazing stunts. Rizal was so impressed by the Indians he called them "Indios bravos" (brave Indians) and realized that the derogatory Spanish term for native inhabitants of the Philippines, "indio," could be turned around and used as a badge of courage, something to be proud of. From then on Rizal and his *barkada* referred to themselves as *los indios bravos*.

In our own times, we have seen a similar reversal of meaning. The once derogatory "Moro" was also used as a badge of courage by the Moro National Liberation Front. And if the Filipino-Chinese can get their act together, maybe they can drop that corny contemporary invented term "Tsinoy" and adopt the historical "Inchic" in the same manner that we have seen the development of "indio and "Moro."

Before he founded the Indios bravos, Rizal also noted that expatriate Filipinos were often mistaken for Chinese, and in one letter referred to himself and his friends jokingly as the "inchics."

After three days of meetings in the Canadian pavilion at Aichi, I did my patriotic duty and headed for the prize-winning Philippine pavilion. There were many Japanese patiently lining up in the heat to get in and see the innovative interactive exhibits of Philippine artifacts as well as to sit inside a giant coconut. We have a small restaurant inside the pavilion that's quite popular with the Japanese. I wanted to sample the cooking but the *kuripot* in me made it hard to hand over roughly P400 for a *halo-halo*, P500 for a *lumpiang ubod*, P600 for a *bibingka*, P700 for *lechon kawali* and P750 for a sampling of pork *adobo*. It was one time I wished the hospitable Consul General Tony Villamayor was around to extend port courtesies.

Like the optimistic Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, I hope the pavilion succeeds in drawing in the tourists but more than that, I'm sure expatriate Filipinos, like me, will feel a sense of pride to see our flag and our pavilion alongside other countries in this microcosm of the world.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

State of the State

LAST Wednesday was the last day for the submission of applications to take the UP College Admission Test (Upcat). At the main campus in Diliman, my office is a stone's throw away from the admissions' office so I've been able to observe the last-minute rush.

I use "rush" intentionally to describe scenes closer to what you'd expect when a new gold mine is discovered. There was a huge crowd of high school students as well as parents and I could feel their hopes as well as anxieties. One mother approached me for help, her face showing disappointment and then panic, when I explained that she needed four ID photographs of her son. She only had two.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Remember this was only the application phase, the first step in a long process. The entrance exams will be administered in a few weeks, and the results will come out a few months later. The day the results are released, there will be very emotional scenes.

The crowds around the admissions' office—mostly from middle- and low-income families—remind me how important "*gobyerno*" is to so many Filipinos. UP is, after all, "*gobyerno*," part of a huge State (and I use the capital letter "s" to emphasize it as one institution) machine that's supposed to respond to the needs of some 85 million Filipinos.

Failed state?

We like to flog ourselves complaining about how nothing works in the country. If we are to believe ourselves, this country has broken down completely: no peace, no order, no future.

Out in the streets, the perception (and this is borne out by the public opinion polls) is that we have a weak, maybe even failed State. The President's approval ratings have been in the subzero range for months now and government agencies are in tight competition with each other for the highest dishonor when it comes to inefficiency and corruption.

And the solution to this quagmire? It's not surprising that we succumb to the temptation of prevailing neoliberal economic ideology, one which the President herself religiously subscribes to: since the State is so inefficient, then we should just reduce its roles and turn over the country's affairs to the private sector.

Paradoxically, the President and her advisers call for less government and yet keep imposing new taxes. People complain because while the burden of taxes gets heavier, we seem to get short-changed even more because the State's services keep getting reduced.

I propose that at this point in our nation's development, what we need is to build on the State's strengths—and there are many.

The scenes around UP's admissions' office hint of what could be. For all the complaints about UP and some (note, some) state universities, they are the only hope for access to quality tertiary education for many Filipinos. This is not empty boasting from a UP professor—we have the evidence with the results of licensure exams showing that for all professions, UP graduates generally have a much higher percentage of passers than those of private schools. (Perversely, because our graduates are so good they also end up being exported in greater numbers.)

And yet we have to turn away many applicants. The budget shrinks each year, and faculty members take heavier teaching loads as fellow teachers move to private schools with higher pay…or to jobs overseas.

Similarly, it is our government health care system, from the Philippine General Hospital down to the rural health unit, that often spells the difference between life and death. Again, one can complain about inefficiency and incompetence in many of these units, but the system shows what could be. PGH, for example, remains the premiere medical institution and training grounds for the doctors who will eventually go into lucrative practice in the private hospitals, here and overseas.

Lifelines

The State is the sole provider of many lifelines, and given a choice, people actually choose government institutions. The reasons aren't just economic. Between a jeepney and the light rail system, I'll take the latter. The LRT/MRT exemplifies what the State could be if it could mobilize its financial and human capital. We wish the LRT/MRT had more lines, more train coaches, in the same way we wish there were more UP campuses and higher admission quotas, more government housing units, more government hospital beds.

People know what the State's potential is. If we were convinced the State would do more good, then we'd cough up some of the P85 billion that the Bureau of Internal Revenue estimates to be unpaid. That's almost equal to the Department of Health's budget for six years.

Maybe too, our public memory tends to be too short and our perceptions too selective. We don't see and appreciate the lives transformed by an education in one of our state universities. Or the difference a government housing unit can mean for family life. A recent Washington Post article gives high marks to the efforts of Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo to crack down on government corruption. The article surprised me not just because it's so rare for Western newspapers to feature good news about the Philippines but also because I realized how little our own papers have said about Marcelo's lonely crusade.

The President

In many ways, we are conditioned to be negative toward the State. When political will is exerted, the public response is at best one of nonchalance. More often, we actually get more resentment and cynicism.

Think of the recent miraculous crackdown on *jueteng*. I was skeptical at first, but I've asked around and actually interviewed some of the *cobradors* who glumly tell me all operations have stopped…although they will smile when I ask how long this will hold.

I get similar smiles when I ask around about kidnapping. The Chinese-Filipino community's generally satisfied about the drop in kidnapping but some smile uneasily too when I ask how long this respite will be.

My heart sinks when I see the smiles, realizing that when the State does display its power—in cracking down on jueteng, for example—we actually get a glimpse of the horrifying truth, that the "power" here is derived from criminal syndicates having hijacked the State's officials and their relatives. The State can stop jueteng because it runs jueteng. Take that logic a step further: the State can't stop the drug abuse problem because it does not want to, because too many of our officials and law "enforcers" profit from having more drug addicts, much more so than with jueteng or kidnapping. The power of the State to do good has been co-opted for great evil, its apparatus transformed into one massive *hulidap* (extortion) operation.

Soft state? Weak state? Failed state? No, we have a powerful State capable of doing great good, or great evil. And the overwhelming malaise we all feel these days comes from trying to figure out where the President fits in this scheme of things.

World-class school of nursing

THIS is in reaction to the INQUIRER editorial titled "Higher-education lows." (PDI, 5/15/05)

In a resolution dated Nov. 5, 2004, the Commission on Higher Education denied the applications of 22 schools to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. In the case of AMA Computer College-Makati, a provisional permit to open and conduct the program for first and second year levels was issued on June 18, 2004.

The CHED did not issue AMA's regular permit purportedly because AMA did not satisfy the base hospital requirement of CHED. However, it is clear that CHED's action was in retaliation to the complaint filed by AMA before the Office of the Ombudsman against CHED-NCR director Amelia Biglete and CHED Technical Committee members, apart from the libel case against former CHED chair Rolando Dela Rosa.

The CHED's issuance of AMA's provisional permit last June 2004 was made subject to only two conditions:

- our presentation of evidence before the CHED to show that we have an acceptable base hospital; and
- our execution of a sworn undertaking in connection thereto on or before Sept. 30, 2004.

On Sept. 13, 2004, we presented evidence for condition No. 1. On June 17, 2004, we complied with condition No. 2. In fact, AMA presented three acceptable base hospitals to ensure conformity with the required training experience for the course in strict compliance with CHED CMO 30-2001.

It is worth noting that CHED's unilateral insistence that the base hospital be a tertiary hospital has no legal basis at all under CMO No. 30-2001 and CMO 28-2004, which were issued on Aug. 30, 2004, both of which do not impose such requirement. CHED is unfairly insisting CMO 28's retroactive application in clear violation of the terms of the provisional permit it granted to AMA.

PHILIPPINE LETTERS INQUIRER

In the interest of justice, we appealed CHED's resolution to higher authority. On Nov. 11, 2004, the Office of the President issued an order directing that the implementation of the appealed resolution be stayed until the case is resolved. It also directed CHED to submit, within 15 days from receipt of the order, the complete records of the case and the summary of proceedings pursuant to existing regulations, and its comment on the appeal.

CHED has not yet acted on this matter and has requested more than three extensions (the latest, on Jan. 11, 2005) to finalize and file its comments to the Office of the President.

Lastly, we would like to refute the allegation that our school of nursing is a sub-standard educational facility. Our institution is "ISO 9001: 2000-certified," meaning, we are a globally recognized institution that meets world standards and international quality. We have a faculty trained by the Harvard Medical International, an affiliate of Harvard University. Our aim is to raise the standards of ICT-based nursing educational program in the country to world-class levels.

—JOHNNY G. RAMOS,
vice president-public relations,
AMA Education System,
JGRamos@amaes.edu.ph

Much abused legal gambling

THE TALK of the Town issue on "Gambling" (PDI, 6/5/05) was a very nice piece. There was, however, one glaring omission—*sabong* or cockfights.

By law, only on Sundays is *sabong* allowed. But where I come from, the mayor officially allows one extra day on a regular basis. That's twice a week for the entire year.

If an official holiday falls on a Sunday, there will be three days of *sabong* for the week.

So that they can bet in the cockfights, many steal coconuts. At P3.50 each, six coconuts bring in P21 for the *sabong*.

Sabong is a much abused legal gambling. Weekly, yes; twice a week, it does more harm than good.

—TED YANGCO,
Poblacion, Sagay, Camiguin Province

More on the tapes and politics

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I READ the news online every night and it is frustrating to see and hear what is going on. Instead of our officials helping the President, they demand that she resign. It's been going on for as long as I can remember. We are being left out economically because of this. So many Filipinos overseas want to go back home to retire, but they are not sure what will happen after they move back home. **—Eloisa Hood, 131 N. Water St., Columbus, WI, USA**

* * *

Shame on this people accusing Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and kin of being criminals. These people act as if they were saints who could do no wrong. The accusers want the Arroyos crucified.**—Edener Fabella, POB 2162 So. San Francisco, CA 94083-2162**

* * *

I wonder if our nation's politicians realize that they themselves are a major reason for the continuing collapse of our country. The alleged rigging of the presidential election results is nothing but another nail that is being driven into the coffin of our country.

So to the petty opposition, please do your country a favor and stop the nonsense. Why don't you just bring the case to court and see if a recorded tape can actually stand as evidence of the alleged rigging? Let's stop the trial by publicity because it is hurting our country. But you probably won't because you're too rich anyway and would probably jet off to another country once our economy collapses. I wonder if you should even be called leaders, let alone Filipinos.**—Dom Briones, 26A Northview Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 9NG**

* * *

Letting the US examine those tapes for credibility is like putting a fox in charge of the hens. They are backing Ms Arroyo 100 percent. They don't want to see what is actually the true life of all the poor people who are just getting poorer as the rich and the corrupt get richer. Australia has already validated those tapes, so why is a second opinion needed? Get a neutral country to examine them.**—Joseph V. Bedosky, 184 Panorama Drive, Winfield, PA 17889 USA**

* * *

The present chaotic handling of the government's image by Congress is a manifestation of our people's failure to elect rightful and responsible leaders to represent them. What we keep seeing now is plain and simple bungling in Congress and the Senate, wrought by self-interest and sheer greed.

All the members of Congress holding tapes which are unacceptable as evidence must be suspended and penalized accordingly for the simple reason that they do not represent reality and truthfulness but simply demean the integrity of the government of which they are supposed to be members and which they are duty-bound to preserve.

I would welcome their ejection from that branch of government and suspension from public office for the rest of their lives as the most rightful answer to their malpractice and insults to our Constitution.**—Nelson E. Laurente, 3409/813 CH Maint, Box 3627, Dubai, UAE**

* * *

Politicians have degenerated into clowns and nitwits in their investigating of the so-called Gloriagate tapes. It seems that the only good things these lawmakers can do is go on a witch hunt. Waste, waste, waste—so much waste for an exercise in futility...Yet the President does nothing despite all the destabilization efforts of her critics. If she wants to be remembered, she should rule with an iron hand, crush all her seditious critics and wipe out graft and corruption. Let the corrupt officials be dealt with harshly. Give them death by firing squad.**—Marlon Lara, 1956 Webster Street, Oakland, California 94612**

* * *

Send the tapes overseas for objective forensic authentication. This is how it should be done. A third party, a reputable forensic lab in the US, will have no stake in the authenticity issue and will simply do its job. Allow it to publicly publish its findings, and then have the character as a nation and a people to accept it. If it is true, you should hold new elections. No coup d'etat—that will just set your country back 20 years again. Filipinos, known around the world for putting knives into their own backs, do not need any more such knives. Instead, use the incident as an opportunity to follow and support the rule of law.

I cannot imagine that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo could be so stupid as to talk about stealing an election with a top election official. This tape is almost certainly fake; another attempt by the opposition to take by force what they could not take through the ballot box.

But if it is real, the rule of law must again apply. Use this—and every other nonsensical challenge to the President—as a chance to strengthen the rule of law and you might actually improve your country.

What is wrong with Filipinos? Individually, sweet, kind, hard-working, family oriented, but as a nation, stupid, self-destructive, selfish. Leave your President alone. **—Daniel Stafford, 8543 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg MD**

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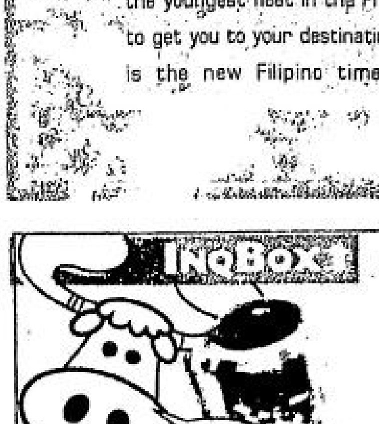

INQBOX

Question of the Week

Do you think that President Gloria Arroyo still has the credibility to lead our nation? Why or why not?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Mug! ©*

Key in: Inquirer box name/age/city/message. Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart). (Maximum of 160 characters)

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Across the NATION

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Garcia tells Martinez: Produce tapes

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—"Produce the tape." Winston Garcia, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) general manager, yesterday raised this challenge to Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez who linked him to the controversial wiretap recordings about alleged rigging of the 2004 elections.

Garcia said he wanted Martinez to produce her copy of the tape so he could have it examined by an expert to disprove the legislator's allegation that he had talked to election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about the alleged rigging of the 2004 elections in Cebu.

"Let her produce the tape and once she produce the tape and proven *nga dili ako kay sigurado man ko nga dili ako*, (that it was not me because I am sure it was not me) I might file an ethics complaint against her for the irresponsible statement in Congress," said Garcia, a lawyer and former Cebu provincial board member.

"It is an irresponsible statement on the part of a congressman to make accusations against the person without even verifying the real identity of the persons in the tape," he added.

Garcia said he believed that Martinez's statement was just an act of desperation because her husband, former Cebu Rep. Celestino Martinez Jr., lost to his sister, Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, in the gubernatorial race in the last elections.

The Martinezes had not conceded defeat, saying they were being cheated by the Garcias in the last election.

During the congressional hearing last Wednesday, the congresswoman said she had a copy of the wiretapped phone recordings.

A portion of the recordings, she added, was about the alleged rigging of the election results in Cebu, where President Arroyo eventually garnered her winning margin of 1.1 million votes.

"Supposedly I would want proper identifications later on ... the President, and Garcillano, and there is another person, his name Tony. I was wondering if it was Tony Gatuslao (presidential adviser for the Visayas) the person whom Garcillano was talking to in relation to the matter in Cebu. I suspect it could be Winston Garcia, the brother of Gwendolyn Garcia who is the manager of GSIS," Martinez said when asked by Rep. Rollo Golez who were the possible participants in the taped conversations.

She said she campaigned for President Macapagal-Arroyo last elections. "Looking back, I wondered if I still did the right thing. Those seeking the truth [should] join me," she said.

Garcia said he never talked to Garcillano on the phone, adding that he only knew him when the commissioner visited GSIS to apply for GSIS e-card.

While he did not hear the alleged taped conversations, he said he read the transcripts published in the newspapers and noticed that the conversations were in Pilipino.

C. Luzon DLR says farmers sold CARP lands illegally

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Farmers in Central Luzon have illegally sold at least 19,903 hectares of lands they received under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed.

Agricultural areas are considered illegally sold and their transfer of ownership unlawful if these were disposed of within the 10-year sale ban imposed by Republic Act 6657 (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law) or if these were not yet fully paid for at the Land Bank of the Philippines, according to Narciso Nieto, regional director of the Department of Land Reform.

The illegal sales, he said, "have somehow defeated the intent" of the CARP to break the monopoly of lands by a few families, assure tenants of ownership and make lands productive for food sufficiency.

Nieto said farmers who sold and mortgaged their lands have been disqualified from the coverage of CARP.

The illegally sold lands comprised 5 percent of the 398,064 ha distributed in Central Luzon in the last 16 years, a DLR report showed.

Nieto said the DLR allows the sale of CARP lands only if "the farmer has an absolute ownership over the land, if the planned sale was beyond the 10-year ban and the potential buyer owns not more than five ha, including the parcels he plans to acquire."

The buyer should also commit to continue making the land productive and agree not to convert it for uses other than agriculture, Nieto said.

The DLR reported 50 cases of illegal conversion covering 250 ha in Central Luzon. The agency approved the conversion of more than 3,000 ha for residential, industrial and institutional uses.

The CARP target in Central Luzon until 2008 is now down to 15,052 ha, the DLR report said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ODDS

EDWIN BACASMAS

President Macapagal-Arroyo stresses a point in her speech during the inauguration of the Tuel Bridge and other government projects during a recent visit in Tublay, Benguet.

Zambales consumers demand return of ₱55.9M in funds spent by power execs

CASTILLEJOS, Zambales—Leaders of 40,000 consumers in Zambales have urged the Ombudsman and the Court of Appeals to immediately act on cases related to the recovery of P55.9 million in electric cooperative funds that have been allegedly misused by its officials since 1989.

The order to officials of the Zambales Electric Cooperative (Zameco) II to "immediately reimburse" the funds was contained in a Nov. 24, 2004 resolution issued by the National Electrification Administration's board of administrators.

The board issued that decision in the complaint filed by the Castillejos Consumers Association (Cascona) in 2002.

The board also ordered the removal of Zameco II officials and their disqualification from seeking office. It also ordered an election for a new set of officials.

But Zameco II president Jose Dominguez, vice president Isaias Vidua, secretary Vicente Barreto, treasurer Jose Santiago and members Jose Naseriv Dolojan, Juan Fernandez and Honorio Dilag Jr. questioned the resolution and their removal.

The CA's 7th division issued NEA a temporary restraining order in February and a preliminary injunction in April. Cascona has sought a lifting of the injunction.

"We want to claim the money the NEA audit department ordered returned to the cooperative," Dominador Gallardo, Cascona president, told the INQUIRER.

While the NEA board of administrators upheld the findings of the two audits by the NEA audit department, top NEA and Zameco II officials did "not take remedial measures" to correct and stop the alleged irregularities, Gallardo said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Padaca proud of new rice trading program for Isabela farmers

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE SAD news for her is that she has been portrayed to have overreacted to what she perceived to be threats against her life. The happy news is that she has launched rice trading partnerships with several provinces and a Metro Manila parish to help Isabela rice farmers.

Speaking before the Rotary Club of Manila last Thursday, Isabela Gov. Maria Gracia Padaca announced that some things have changed in her province. For the first time ever, she said, farmers got very good prices for their products.

"This was unprecedented and they have been thanking me for this," the first-time governor said. "I think that this is the result of what I did last year when I directly invited buyers from Bulacan, Batangas, Nueva Ecija, Manila and Ilocos to come and buy our farmers' products and enjoy the free competition."

All these years, she added, farmers were simply selling their rice and corn without looking into their byproducts that could mean more value added. "The former leaders of our province concentrated more on infrastructure projects where fat commissions were assured. They borrowed millions from banks a few months before elections to replace our district hospitals with new ones and we will have to pay for these loans in the next 25 years."

A trading partnership is being worked out between Isabela and the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish under "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes, Padaca told the Rotarians, and later, the INQUIRER. The parish belongs to the new diocese of Cubao in Metro Manila.

Padaca dropped by the INQUIRER editorial office last Thursday to clarify recent reports on the explosions near the governor's residence and, more importantly, she said, to express long-overdue thanks for the INQUIRER's coverage of the Isabela electoral battle and her triumph.

"The [rice trading scheme] is meant to eliminate middlemen and ensure better prices for both the farmers and the consumers," Padaca said. "If you want our rice, red rice, organic rice, I can encourage our farmers to provide for you."

Reyes told the INQUIRER this trading partnership is indeed being worked out. The scheme between the two known personalities is indeed complementary in a literal way. Padaca uses crutches because of her polio while Reyes is a nationally known marathon runner for a cause.

Airing her complaint about the explosions outside the governor's residence last Sunday and how her reaction was reported in the media, Padaca stressed to the INQUIRER that all she wanted was an airtight police investigation and report.

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CalEnergy congratulates the National Irrigation Administration on its 42nd anniversary

CalEnergy gives recognition to NIA's outstanding irrigators' associations

MESSAGES

MALACAÑANG PALACE
MANILA

I greet the men and women of the National Irrigation Administration as you celebrate your 42nd Founding Anniversary.

This celebration is another milestone in the long history of the NIA. It is, therefore, with pleasure that I share with you in commemorating this momentous occasion.

The NIA has gone a long way since its proud inception. Forty-two years since my father, President Diosdado Macapagal, established this agency, you have done our country proud by your farmlands with irrigation facilities to sustain our country's demand for agricultural products is indeed laudable.

We are committed to develop an additional two million new agribusiness lands to expand our agricultural production. This will result in more jobs in our farms and in food-processing, not to mention more food for our people. I am counting on you to support my administration in our goal to uplift the lives of our countrymen.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Manila
2 June 2005

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Warmest felicitations to the officials and staff of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on the occasion of your 42nd Anniversary.

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture family, I commend your continuing efforts in implementing the country's irrigation program, thus enabling farmers to produce adequate and affordable food and more importantly, jumpstarting and socio-economic development of the Philippine countryside.

In particular, we take pride in your accomplishments, foremost of which is the provision of much-need irrigation to over 1.4 million hectares, which are collectively served by 196 national, 6,702 communal, and [illegible] private irrigation systems. And that, to date, you have organized 5,800 Irrigators' Associations (IAs) nationwide — with 838,380 farmer-members tilling an aggregate of one million hectares — is indeed a milestone.

As such, we count on NIA — along with the various provincial and regional IA federations, and LGUs — as one of the major pillars of the DA family in our collective pursuit of the two major goals set forth by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. These refer to developing two million new agribusiness lands and creating two million additional jobs; and reducing the cost of basic food items and making these affordable and accessible to all Filipino families.

I therefore enjoin the men and women of NIA to remain committed in providing selfless service to our clienteles, most especially small farmers, in our task to enhance agricultural and countryside development.

Congratulations and more power!

Mabuhay ang NIA!

ARTHUR C. YAP
Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration
EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City 1100

June 22, 2005 marks the 42nd Anniversary of the National Irrigation Administration; 42 years of ensuring irrigation water to about 1.3 million hectares of farmlands tilled by the same number of farmers nationwide. It was 42 years ago that the beloved father of our President the HON. DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL, signed the law creating the NIA. It is not therefore surprising that President Arroyo has a soft heart for the NIA and for the farmers in general.

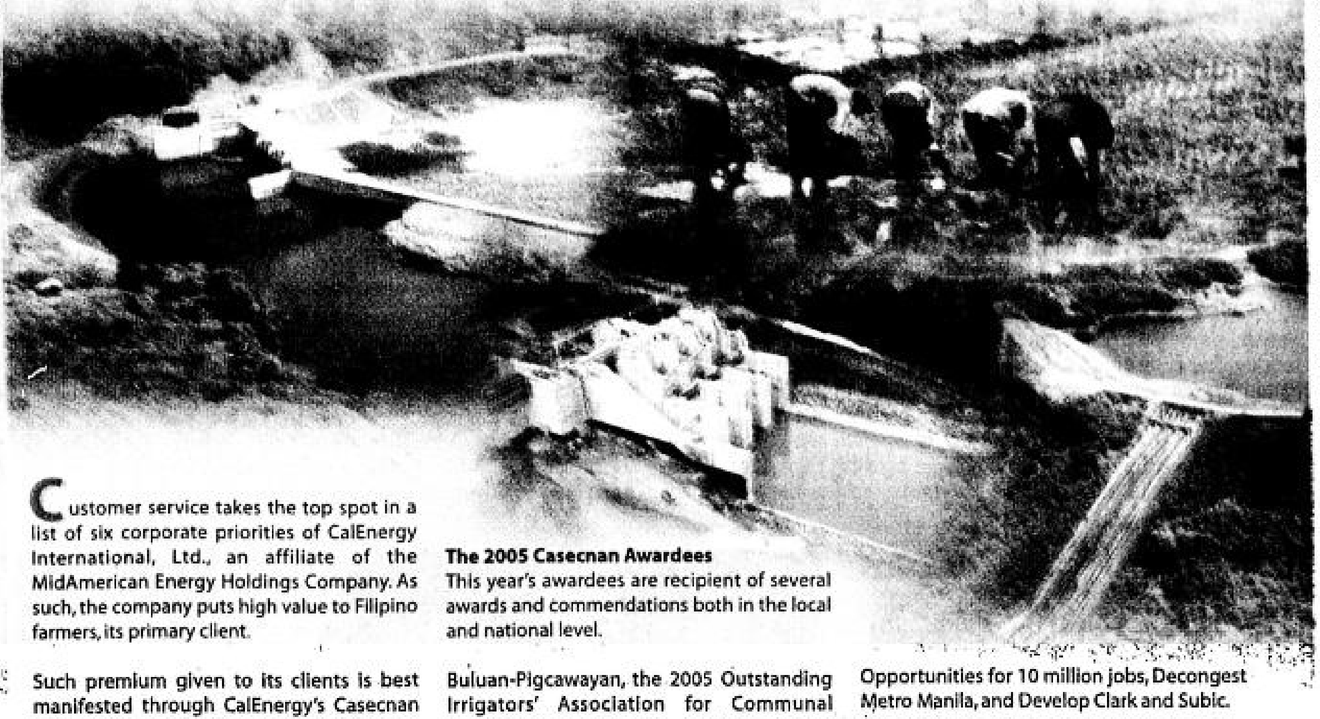
2005 is rather a year of many challenges — a challenge of providing efficient service to the farmers amidst financial difficulties. But with the support and cooperation of all NIA-loving officials and employees, this challenge could be met head-on.

As we celebrate this memorable occasion, let me take this opportunity to thank all the officials and employees of the NIA, the Department of Agriculture, Irrigators' Association, Local Government Units, and other government and non-government agencies for their support and cooperation in making this agency a truly servant of the people.

At this point let me extend my profound gratitude to HER EXCELLENCY President GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, for giving her trust and confidence to lead the agency. And in recognition of that trust and confidence, rest assured that the NIA under my leadership shall implement all its programs and projects in support to the programs of the President on food sufficiency and poverty alleviation.

MABUHAY ANG NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION!!!

PROCESO DOMINGO
Administrator



Customer service takes the top spot in a list of six corporate priorities of CalEnergy International, Ltd., an affiliate of the MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company. As such, the company puts high value to Filipino farmers, its primary client.

Such premium given to its clients is best manifested through CalEnergy's Casecnan Awards for Outstanding Irrigators' Association (IA). Initiated in 2003, the Casecnan Awards provides grants to top IAs that have won in the National Irrigation Systems and the Communal Irrigation Systems of the National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) annual competition. To date, the Casecnan Awards has provided grants amounting to over P0.5 million.

"Customer service is one of the six corporate priorities that define and shape CalEnergy. Customer service is not just delivering electricity through our pipes and weirs or harnessing water resource. It means helping customers through challenges and constantly finding ways to serve them best. As our president and chairman David Sokol said, customer service, along with employee commitment, financial strength, environment respect, regulatory integrity and operational excellence, is the bedrock on which our company is built to last," Joseph L. Sullivan, CalEnergy president, says.

The project grants are intended to create self-reliance among IAs and ensure continuity of their operations. IAs that benefited from this grants use the funds to increase their capital to better serve their respective clients – the farmer-members. Some of these services include strengthening the associations' re-lending program to provide an easy re-payment scheme to qualified members, offering loan programs for rice production, farm inputs and palay trading, obtaining new equipment to streamline operations, and conducting skills training and livelihood projects, among others.

The 2005 Casecnan Awardees

This year's awardees are recipient of several awards and commendations both in the local and national level.

Buluan-Pigcawayan, the 2005 Outstanding Irrigators' Association for Communal Irrigation System, has bagged the Casecnan Awards for three consecutive years now. Since 2003, Buluan-Pigcawayan has been duly recognized for its exemplary management and maintenance of irrigation system, excellent provision of services to farmer-irrigators and valuable contribution to agriculture development.

The Dujali Isidro Talisay Casay Irrigators Association, Inc (DITCIA), this year's Outstanding Irrigators' Association at the national level, has also been reaping awards for its sound financial management, effective maintenance of its irrigation system, and remarkable service and assistance given to its members. In 2004 alone, DITCIA received six awards from DA-LGU and NIA Region 11. DITCIA also received a Plaque of Recognition as 1st runner up in 2003 given by CalEnergy. *(see sidebar: Outstanding IAs at a glance)*

A Partner in Excellence

"We are thankful to CalEnergy for all the support it gives to IAs especially through the Casecnan Awards," NIA administrator Proceso Domingo says. "As the only government agency that has strong linkage with the farmers, NIA hopes to strengthen the 7,000 irrigators' associations nationwide, composed of over a million farmers, to support Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's BEAT THE ODDs program. CalEnergy has been very supportive to us in this effort." BEAT THE ODDs stands for Balanced budget, Education for all, Automated electors, Transport and Digital infrastructure to connect the country, Terminate the MILF and NPA conflicts, Heal the wounds of EDSA, Electricity and water for all barangays, Opportunities for 10 million jobs, Decongest Metro Manila, and Develop Clark and Subic.

"NIA has a crucial role to play in President Arroyo's goal of providing opportunities for each Filipino. By ensuring the viability of IAs, constructing dams and rehabilitating irrigation facilities, we are also giving each farmer an opportunity to increase their production," he adds. "Increase in rice production means improving their living condition. Ultimately, we hope to be self-sufficient and minimize the importation of rice."

The Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Hydroelectric Project in Luzon, a joint effort of CalEnergy and the NIA, is an undertaking that is expected to augment rice production in Central Luzon to as much as nine million cavans or 465,000 tons of palay per year. The project likewise provides irrigation to 35,000 hectares of agricultural lands in Luzon and stabilizes water supply to 102,000 hectares of rice fields.

"CalEnergy, through the Casecnan Awards and other community projects for the farmers who are our core constituents, is doing its share to help spur development in the agricultural sector. The Philippines is mainly an agricultural country, and agriculture has the potential to create the highest number of employment opportunities," Linda B. Castillo, CalEnergy Vice President and General Counsel, declares.

Indeed, CalEnergy and NIA's partnership is founded on a common goal of delivering excellent service to its customer – the Filipino farmers – and improving their plight. In the process, this partnership is also destined to improve the Philippine economy through increased agricultural production.

A Message from CalEnergy President Joseph L. Sullivan

CalEnergy supports NIA every step of the way

> *Coming together is a beginning, staying together is a progress and working together is success.*
> *—Henry Ford*

CalEnergy and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) have been working together for the past decade to raise the quality of life of the Filipino farmers – the backbone of Philippine economy – and in the process, boost the performance of the country's agriculture sector. This is the commitment we made when we started partnership with the NIA 10 years ago.

It was in 1995 when CalEnergy collaborated with the NIA to develop the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Hydroelectric Project in Luzon. It is a combined irrigation and hydroelectric power generation project that became operational in 2001. The project collects the excess water of the Casecnan and Taan rivers in two 30-meter high weirs and transports it through a 26-kilometer underground tunnel to an underground generating station and then to the existing Pantabangan Reservoir. This adds 150 MW of hydroelectric power to the Luzon grid and benefits 350,000 homes. Energy from the Casecnan project is produced by non-polluting, renewable, indigenous hydroelectric sources. The project likewise provides irrigation to 35,000 hectares of agricultural lands in Central Luzon, dubbed as the rice granary of the Philippines, and stabilizes water supply to 102,000 hectares of rice fields. This will result in increased rice production by about nine million cavans or 465,000 tons of palay per year.

Other Efforts

Indeed, we have come a long way since we started our Philippine operation a decade ago. Our efforts, however, did not solely focus in Luzon. CalEnergy has likewise provided financial assistance to various irrigators' associations throughout the country to ensure that they remain viable and self-reliant. After all, CalEnergy firmly believes in developing sustainable operations and implementing environmental projects that adhere to the company's RESPECT policy. RESPECT stands for Responsibility, Efficiency, Stewardship, Performance, Evaluation, Communication and Training. This policy ensures that we abide by our corporate commitment of creating sustainable development while preserving the environment for the benefit of future generations. By doing so, we are also assisting the NIA attain its goal of achieving economic growth and alleviating poverty.

On NIA's 42nd anniversary, CalEnergy reiterates its full support to the organization that continues to assist the Filipino farmers. CalEnergy supports the NIA every step of the way in realizing increased rice production and improving the living condition of the farmers.

This is CalEnergy's commitment to the Filipino people.

Outstanding Irrigators

CASECNAN
2004 Casecnan Award
for Outstanding Irrigators' Association

Above photo shows Bagong Silang and Buluan-Pigcawayan, last year's recipient of Outstanding Irrigators' Award given by CE Casecnan. Both IAs received cash prizes and plaques.

Snapshot of 2005 Casecnan Awardees for Outstanding Irrigators:

Buluan-Pigcawayan Irrigators Association
Outstanding IA for Communal Irrigation System

Summary of accomplishments:

Operation and Maintenance
- A fully irrigated 106 hectares of land, which resulted in cropping intensity of 200%
- Continuous maintenance and clearing of canals to ensure free flow of water
- Average harvest of 106.25 cavans per hectare during dry season and 102.90 cavans per hectare during wet season
- Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) collection rate of 10 kg/hectare/cropping season. Collection efficiency of 98.22% in kilograms and 99.31% in peso value

Financial
- Zero liabilities to NIA
- Total income of P327,349.30 and total expenses of P186,901.16
- Bank deposit of P21,135.33; cash on hand of P8,458.33; an investment of P7,305.10 in palay trading; rice production loan venture in the amount of P217,665.93; and Farm Inputs Venture of P70,263

Livelihood Projects
- Recipient of "kabir chicks" and piglets
- Conducted "Hog Fattening Venture" project

Trainings
- Basic Leadership Development Course
- Systems Management
- Irrigators Association Regional Information System
- Financial Management System
- Technology Enhancement Program
- Financial Management System for Agri-Business

The Dujali Isidro Talisay Casay Irrigators Association, Inc (DITCIA)
Outstanding IA at the National Level

Summary of accomplishments:

Operation and Maintenance
- Adopts cropping calendar and pattern of planting that are attuned to the programs of the line agencies and to the farmers
- Conducts effective maintenance of equipment and taps the help of local government unit of NIA as the need arises
- Undertakes oiling of steel gates every 15th of the month simultaneous with canal clearing and ditches cleaning; drainage cleaning is done every quarter while road maintenance is conducted twice a year

Financial
- Transparent financial transactions
- Total current account collection of P172,651.20 and collection efficiency of 95.87%

Livelihood Projects
- Backyard gardening
- Poultry
- Swine raising
- Tilapia culture
- Compost
- Goat raising

Service to Members
- Credit assistance to members for agricultural production
- Livelihood programs
- Women involvement in livelihood programs
- Marketing assistance to IA members
- Agricultural machineries and implements for use of IA members
- Tie-ups with LGUs, NGOs/GOs other than NIA
- Rendering of free services
- Provision of incentives to its members and employees

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Republic of the Philippines
Region XII
PROVINCE OF COTABATO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Amas, Kidapawan City

UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION, RESPECT THE RULE OF LAW

(MANIFESTO OF THE LEADERS OF NORTH COTABATO IN RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR THE RESIGNATION OF PRES. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO)

Over the last few days, the nation has been besieged by a series of controversies that brought fear and the feeling of uncertainty among the people.

First was the issue of members of the President's family receiving jueteng payola.

Then came the allegations of electoral fraud allegedly supported by tape recorded conversations between the President and a top official of the Commission on Elections.

These controversies brought about the organization of rallies calling for the President's resignation from office. The administration says it is all part of a grand destabilization effort by enemies of the state.

Amid all this, the ordinary Filipino is at a loss as to who to believe. Using the media both camps have bombarded the citizenry with their own version of the stories.

It is in view of this that we in the Province of North Cotabato call for sobriety and discernment.

We believe that there is a proper forum where all of these issues could be properly addressed. We believe too that due process must be respected.

On the issue of illegal gambling, a thorough and serious investigation should be pursued in order to bring out the truth.

The same investigation should be done in the case of the so-called recorded conversations attesting to electoral fraud in the last political exercise.

Calling for the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo even before all of these issues are clarified is improper and premature.

We cannot afford instability at this point in our history when the nation, especially the Province of North Cotabato, is making an economic turn-around. It could also affect the ongoing peace negotiations with rebel groups which the people expect would put an end to the decades of strife and killing in Mindanao.

We cannot and will not allow again a few hundred or even a few thousand people in Metro Manila to decide the political fate of the whole nation.

We therefore make this clear message: We must uphold the Constitution, maintain the stability of the Institutions, respect the Rule of Law and observe Due Process.

HON. EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Governor

HON. JESUS N. SACDALAN
Vice-Governor

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MOB RULE OR RULE OF LAW? INSTABILITY OR PROSPERITY? THE CHOICE IS OURS!

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NBI says charges vs archbishop baseless

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents yesterday described the accusations of sexual misconduct and involvement in gambling and drugs aired against crusading Archbishop Oscar Cruz by an alleged former altar boy of the prelate as "preposterous."

"We did not believe him when he came to the NBI a few weeks ago because he could not substantiate his stories and accusations," an agent who requested anonymity said of Jaime Aquino, a former tabloid correspondent. "*Halatang hao siao siya* (He obviously was a bogus witness)," the source added.

NBI-National Capital Region director Edmund Arugay said Aquino visited the NBI a few weeks ago as a walk-in complainant. Aquino then detailed the alleged offenses of Cruz.

Aquino claimed that the prelate sexually abused him when he was a teenager. He also alleged that Cruz had sired two illegitimate children with a former girlfriend.

"But he could not produce anything that would prove all those allegations," the agent said.

The agent also stressed that since the alleged rape took place 16 years ago, the recommended filing period for such an offense had lapsed. "We did not believe what he said because his claims were unbelievable," the source said. The agent added that Aquino visited the NBI during the height of the jueteng probe, which Cruz had single-handedly revived.

Aquino presented a 30-page complaint addressed to Pope Benedict XVI at the office of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in Intramuros, Manila, the other day, linking the prelate to jueteng, illegal drugs, and a supposed destabilization plot against the present administration.

Cruz had earlier warned that his enemies' "dirty tricks" department would soon come out with outrageous accusations in trying to discredit him.

Augusto Villanueva, editor in chief of the Journal publications, had also said that Aquino ceased to be a correspondent of the People's Journal, People's Tonight and People's Taliba for almost two months now.

Villanueva said they decided to let go of Aquino when he wrote a number of articles that were later found to be fabricated.

Two major media organizations in Pangasinan also disowned Aquino after members saw him denounce Cruz on national TV on Wednesday night.

Raul Tamayo, Pangasinan Press and Radio Club (PPRC) president, said Aquino was removed from the club's roster after he was involved in a fist fight with a fellow PPRC member in 1999. Behn Hortaleza, president of the Pangasinan Tri-Media Association, also said Aquino does not belong to his group.

Tamayo said if Aquino had complaints against Cruz, he should have submitted them to the proper forum "out of respect for the archbishop."

No believers

In separate telephone interviews with the INQUIRER, several Pangasinan reporters said no one among them believed Aquino's claim since he reportedly had "the capacity to destroy a person's reputation to earn money."

Asked why he failed to recognize Cruz at the CBCP office in Manila, Aquino said: "I actually snubbed him. Why should I talk to the bishop who is the cause of my trouble? "No one is behind me. I started this fight alone and I will finish this alone," he added.

A native of Mapandan, Pangasinan, Aquino, 37, started his career as an errand boy for local editors when he was 16 years old. He learned to gather information after years of tagging along with reporters, according to Pangasinan media persons.

In 1998, Aquino put up his own weekly, the Northern Star, and later faced a string of libel cases for publishing stories that, according to local officials and reporters, were found to be "damaging" and "baseless."

Attacks

Meanwhile, Infanta Bishop Julio Labayen, one of the key players in the campaign to convince President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down, said the sexual harassment charges being hurled against Cruz prove that crusading church workers have become targets of character assassination.

Labayen said attacks against the clergy could affect his campaign to draw more bishops into actively supporting a change in government.

On the other hand, the Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines (ProGay) branded Aquino's accusations as "gay baiting in aid of character assassination."

"We are certain that this is the handiwork of interest groups who want the jueteng controversy to die down via character assassination that would muddle the issue," said Mykel Falguera, ProGay secretary general.

ProGay also accused the administration of using a homophobic-based scandal to get back at its perceived political opponents.

"The honor and reputation of common homosexuals are affected by gay baiting. This is the reason why there is increased homophobia, discrimination and sexual abuse against them," Falguera said. ***Margaux C. Ortiz, Gobleth Moulic, Vincent Cabreza, Norman Bordadora***

UP alumni awards

SUPREME Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. (AA '55, BSJ '58, LLB '59) and Prof. Solita Monsod (AB '59) are the top honorees in this year's Most Distinguished Alumni of the University of the Philippines awards ceremonies.

The awarding will be held at the 92nd UPAA General Homecoming tomorrow at the Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman, Quezon City, with the following classes celebrating: 1945 (Diamond), 1955 (Golden), 1965 (Ruby) and 1980 (Silver), according to the UPAA Awards Committee chaired by UPAA President Jaime de los Santos.

The Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Awards will be conferred on David M. Consunji (BSCE '46, LLD '93) and Dr. Thelma Navarrete-Celemente (AA '40, MD '45). Outstanding professional awardees are: Dr. Azucena L. Carpena, Agriculture, Dr. Paulino Zafaralla, Arts and Letters; Mercedes Tan-Gotianun, Business Administration; Claudio Altura, Engineering; Ruben David F. Defeo, Fine Arts-Art History and Criticism; Dr. Liberato V. Laureta, Fisheries; Eduardo V. Manalac, Geology; Pacita U. Juan, Home Economics; Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua , Medicine; Dr. Benito O. de Lumen, Natural Science-Biological; Dr. Teofilo Abrajano, Jr. Natural Science-Environmental; Dr. Fely Marilyn Elegado-Lorenzo, Nursing; Dr. Lydia Calcena-Mangahas, Veterinary Medicine.

The Community Service Award (National) will be given to Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo. For Luzon: Dr. Abundio Palencia, Sr. Eduardo F. Hernandez will get the UPAA Service Award, while the Special Recognition Award will be given to Henry Lim Bon Liong. Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan will be given the UPAA Presidential Award (posthumous). The Outstanding Alumni Chapter for 2005 will go to the UP Club of America. Outstanding Graduates for this year are Bonping Stewart Lim II, BS BioChem; and Noelle Andrea Fabie, BSMBB.

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UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION, RESPECT THE RULE OF LAW

(MANIFESTO OF THE LEADERS OF NORTH COTABATO IN RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR THE RESIGNATION OF PRES. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO)

Over the last few days, the nation has been besieged by a series of controversies that brought fear and the feeling of uncertainty among the people.

First was the issue of members of the President's family receiving jueteng payola.

Then came the allegations of electoral fraud allegedly supported by tape recorded conversations between the President and a top official of the Commission on Elections.

These controversies brought about the organization of rallies calling for the President's resignation from office. The administration says it is all part of a grand destabilization effort by enemies of the state.

Amid all this, the ordinary Filipino is at a loss as to who to believe. Using the media both camps have bombarded the citizenry with their own version of the stories.

It is in view of this that we in the Province of North Cotabato call for sobriety and discernment.

We believe that there is a proper forum where all of these issues could be properly addressed. We believe too that due process must be respected.

On the issue of illegal gambling, a thorough and serious investigation should be pursued in order to bring out the truth.

The same investigation should be done in the case of the so-called recorded conversations attesting to electoral fraud in the last political exercise.

Calling for the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo even before all of these issues are clarified is improper and premature.

We cannot afford instability at this point in our history when the nation, especially the Province of North Cotabato, is making an economic turn-around. It could also affect the ongoing peace negotiations with rebel groups which the people expect would put an end to the decades of strife and killing in Mindanao.

We cannot and will not allow again a few hundred or even a few thousand people in Metro Manila to decide the political fate of the whole nation.

We therefore make this clear message: We must uphold the Constitution, maintain the stability of the Institutions, respect the Rule of Law and observe Due Process.

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NBI says charges vs archbishop baseless

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents yesterday described the accusations of sexual misconduct and involvement in gambling and drugs aired against crusading Archbishop Oscar Cruz by an alleged former altar boy of the prelate as "preposterous."

"We did not believe him when he came to the NBI a few weeks ago because he could not substantiate his stories and accusations," an agent who requested anonymity said of Jaime Aquino, a former tabloid correspondent. "*Halatang hao siao siya* (He obviously was a bogus witness)," the source added.

NBI-National Capital Region director Edmund Arugay said Aquino visited the NBI a few weeks ago as a walk-in complainant. Aquino then detailed the alleged offenses of Cruz.

Aquino claimed that the prelate sexually abused him when he was a teenager. He also alleged that Cruz had sired two illegitimate children with a former girlfriend.

"But he could not produce anything that would prove all those allegations," the agent said.

The agent also stressed that since the alleged rape took place 16 years ago, the recommended filing period for such an offense had lapsed. "We did not believe what he said because his claims were unbelievable," the source said. The agent added that Aquino visited the NBI during the height of the jueteng probe, which Cruz had single-handedly revived.

Aquino presented a 30-page complaint addressed to Pope Benedict XVI at the office of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in Intramuros, Manila, the other day, linking the prelate to jueteng, illegal drugs, and a supposed destabilization plot against the present administration.

Cruz had earlier warned that his enemies' "dirty tricks" department would soon come out with outrageous accusations in trying to discredit him.

Augusto Villanueva, editor in chief of the Journal publications, had also said that Aquino ceased to be a correspondent of the People's Journal, People's Tonight and People's Taliba for almost two months now.

Villanueva said they decided to let go of Aquino when he wrote a number of articles that were later found to be fabricated.

Two major media organizations in Pangasinan also disowned Aquino after members saw him denounce Cruz on national TV on Wednesday night.

Raul Tamayo, Pangasinan Press and Radio Club (PPRC) president, said Aquino was removed from the club's roster after he was involved in a fist fight with a fellow PPRC member in 1999. Behn Hortaleza, president of the Pangasinan Tri-Media Association, also said Aquino does not belong to his group.

Tamayo said if Aquino had complaints against Cruz, he should have submitted them to the proper forum "out of respect for the archbishop."

No believers

In separate telephone interviews with the INQUIRER, several Pangasinan reporters said no one among them believed Aquino's claim since he reportedly had "the capacity to destroy a person's reputation to earn money."

Asked why he failed to recognize Cruz at the CBCP office in Manila, Aquino said: "I actually snubbed him. Why should I talk to the bishop who is the cause of my trouble? "No one is behind me. I started this fight alone and I will finish this alone," he added.

A native of Mapandan, Pangasinan, Aquino, 37, started his career as an errand boy for local editors when he was 16 years old. He learned to gather information after years of tagging along with reporters, according to Pangasinan media persons.

In 1998, Aquino put up his own weekly, the Northern Star, and later faced a string of libel cases for publishing stories that, according to local officials and reporters, were found to be "damaging" and "baseless."

Attacks

Meanwhile, Infanta Bishop Julio Labayen, one of the key players in the campaign to convince President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down, said the sexual harassment charges being hurled against Cruz prove that crusading church workers have become targets of character assassination.

Labayen said attacks against the clergy could affect his campaign to draw more bishops into actively supporting a change in government.

On the other hand, the Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines (ProGay) branded Aquino's accusations as "gay baiting in aid of character assassination."

"We are certain that this is the handiwork of interest groups who want the jueteng controversy to die down via character assassination that would muddle the issue," said Mykel Falguera, ProGay secretary general.

ProGay also accused the administration of using a homophobic-based scandal to get back at its perceived political opponents.

"The honor and reputation of common homosexuals are affected by gay baiting. This is the reason why there is increased homophobia, discrimination and sexual abuse against them," Falguera said. *Margaux C. Ortiz, Gobleth Moulic, Vincent Cabreza, Norman Bordadora*

UP alumni awards

SUPREME Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. (AA '55, BSJ '58, LLB '59) and Prof. Solita Monsod (AB '59) are the top honorees in this year's Most Distinguished Alumni of the University of the Philippines awards ceremonies.

The awarding will be held at the 92nd UPAA General Homecoming tomorrow at the Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman, Quezon City, with the following classes celebrating: 1945 (Diamond), 1955 (Golden), 1965 (Ruby) and 1980 (Silver), according to the UPAA Awards Committee chaired by UPAA President Jaime de los Santos.

The Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Awards will be conferred on David M. Consunji (BSCE '46, LLD '93) and Dr. Thelma Navarrete-Celemente (AA '40, MD '45). Outstanding professional awardees are: Dr. Azucena L. Carpena, Agriculture, Dr. Paulino Zafaralla, Arts and Letters; Mercedes Tan-Gotianun, Business Administration; Claudio Altura, Engineering; Ruben David F. Defeo, Fine Arts-Art History and Criticism; Dr. Liberato V. Laureta, Fisheries; Eduardo V. Manalac, Geology; Pacita U. Juan, Home Economics; Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua, Medicine; Dr. Benito O. de Lumen, Natural Science-Biological; Dr. Teofilo Abrajano, Jr. Natural Science-Environmental; Dr. Fely Marilyn Elegado-Lorenzo, Nursing; Dr. Lydia Calcena-Mangahas, Veterinary Medicine.

The Community Service Award (National) will be given to Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo. For Luzon: Dr. Abundio Palencia, Sr. Eduardo F. Hernandez will get the UPAA Service Award, while the Special Recognition Award will be given to Henry Lim Bon Liong. Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan will be given the UPAA Presidential Award (posthumous). The Outstanding Alumni Chapter for 2005 will go to the UP Club of America. Outstanding Graduates for this year are Bonping Stewart Lim II, BS-BioChem; and Noelle Andrea Fabie, BSMBB.

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SWEET DREAMS
This man and his son take a break to catch up on sleep on board a "kalesa" or horse-drawn carriage during a slow day in Tondo, Manila. The number of kalesas has dwindled, with many commuters choosing to ride in airconditioned buses or taxis.

Metro Manila's 'largest septic tank' near death

By Blanche S. Rivera

LAGUNA de Bay, the country's biggest lake, is also Metro Manila's largest septic tank.

Domestic waste from at least 125,000 households, half of them illegal settlers, are dumped directly into the lake every day, Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) executive director Edgardo Manda said.

The water in all 15 rivers feeding the lake was found to contain coliform bacteria in amounts higher than the acceptable 5,000 mpn (most probable number) per 100 ml of water, according to the LLDA's status report on Laguna Lake.

"This indicates fecal contamination rendering the water unsuitable for domestic water supply, fishery, agriculture, recreation and some industrial uses," Manda told some 150 stakeholders in Pasig City yesterday.

Water samples taken early this year also found traces of cadmium and chromium, along with heavy metals, in the water. The amount of lead exceeded the normal level.

The LLDA report said there were indications of groundwater contamination, such as the presence of ammonia and dissolved solids.

Manda presented the Laguna Lake status report, the first done by the LLDA in 30 years, as part of the agency's public disclosure campaign that aims to raise public concern and inspire local government initiatives to save the lake.

The scientific community has concluded that the 900-sq. km. lake was "extremely stressed." This means the body of water was "near death."

Manda said Laguna Lake would die in 25 years if abuse and pollution were not addressed.

"For every year that you pollute or abuse a lake, it would take 50 years to revitalize it. That's a lifetime. If we do not do anything about our problems now, we will lose Laguna Lake in 25 years," Manda said.

The LLDA official is discussing with the National Housing Authority, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Presidential Management Staff, National Anti-Poverty Commission and the Department of Public Works and Highways the problem of squatters along the lake.

He asked the NHA to make plans for the demolition of illegal structures and to relocate some 12,000 households.

The LLDA is planning to put up physical barriers on the shore line to prevent more squatting and movement further into the lake.

"There are too many squatters... Their waste just goes straight to the lake. Laguna de Bay is Metro Manila's biggest septic tank," Manda said.

The LLDA chief noted that the squatter colony occupied 175 hectares of the Laguna de Bay watershed, and was located just 10 meters from the shore line.

He blamed the 1992 Proclamation No. 704 by former President Fidel V. Ramos for the expansion of the colony. The proclamation extended the legal boundary for settlers from 80 to 175 hectares.

"That, I think, was ill-advised," Manda said. "The soil on that part of the shore is already unstable and can pose a danger to the dwellers."

QC promotes 4 o'clock habit

WANT to keep your home safe from the dreaded dengue? Develop the 4 o'clock habit.

Regularly cleaning the house and backyard at 4 p.m. could go a long way in combating dengue-carrying mosquitoes, according to the Quezon City health department.

Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes that transmit the dreaded disease to humans are believed to be most active in the late afternoon, city health officer Maria Paz Ugalde said.

Special attention should be given to possible breeding grounds of mosquitoes, like puddles or water containers, she added.

The 4 o'clock habit is just one of several measures the city health department wants to teach the public to reduce dengue incidence in the city.

The department started fielding sanitary inspectors to distribute abate powder to barangays to destroy the breeding grounds of mosquitoes.

Mixed with water, abate powder becomes a larvicide.

Use of the powder was considered more effective than fumigation or fogging, which posed some health hazards, said Ugalde.

The city health department is also conducting an information drive on how to prevent dengue, a potentially deadly disease found in the tropics.

Investment scam suspect nabbed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AN INVESTMENT scam suspect who allegedly got millions of pesos from her victims was arrested by the police the other day.

Gloria Reyes, 55, of Baao, Camarines Sur, was apprehended Wednesday afternoon near the President's Tower Condominium on Timog Avenue in Quezon City, ending a two-week hunt by operatives of the Regional Intelligence Special Operations Office (Risoo).

Director Vidal Querol of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said a Risoo team had been tracking down Reyes after it failed to find her at her given address, No. 7 Champaca St., Mapayapa Village II, Quezon City.

Querol said the arrest was done on the orders of Judge Priscilla Mijares, presiding judge of Pasay City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 108. He added that the arrest resulted from his office's intensified operations against wanted persons.

Reyes is facing two cases of estafa that were filed on Sept. 15, 2003.

The court issued a warrant of arrest for Reyes for allegedly violating Republic Act No. 8799 or the New Securities Regulation Law. She was not allowed to post bail.

The suspect was also the subject of another warrant of arrest for estafa with a recommended bail of P60,000.

The cases against Reyes stemmed from a complaint by a certain Joseph dela Luna, who claimed he invested money in Reyes' corporation, Intercontinental Services Inc.

The suspect's company was allegedly engaged in facilitating loans for new and distressed business firms.

Dela Luna alleged Reyes issued him 20 checks amounting to about P53 million in November 2002.

All checks, however, were refused by the bank due to "insufficient funds."

Police also found that five other cases for estafa and violation of Batas Pambansa 22 (Bouncing Checks Law) had been filed against Reyes in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

As of press time, the suspect was in the custody of Risoo-NCRPO.

Police, watchmen share a home

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MANDALUYONG City government has inaugurated a Community Police Assistance Center (Compac) with both policemen and barangay watchmen on detail.

City police chief Ericson Velasquez said the center in Barangay Addition Hills "will help us concentrate our efforts in the barangay."

Addition Hills is the biggest barangay in the city, with a population of about 130,000, the city public information office said.

Before the new assistance center opened, the barangay was under the jurisdiction of two police community precincts, which were also looking after seven other barangays.

The city government decided an additional police precinct was needed at Barangay Addition Hills, Velasquez said.

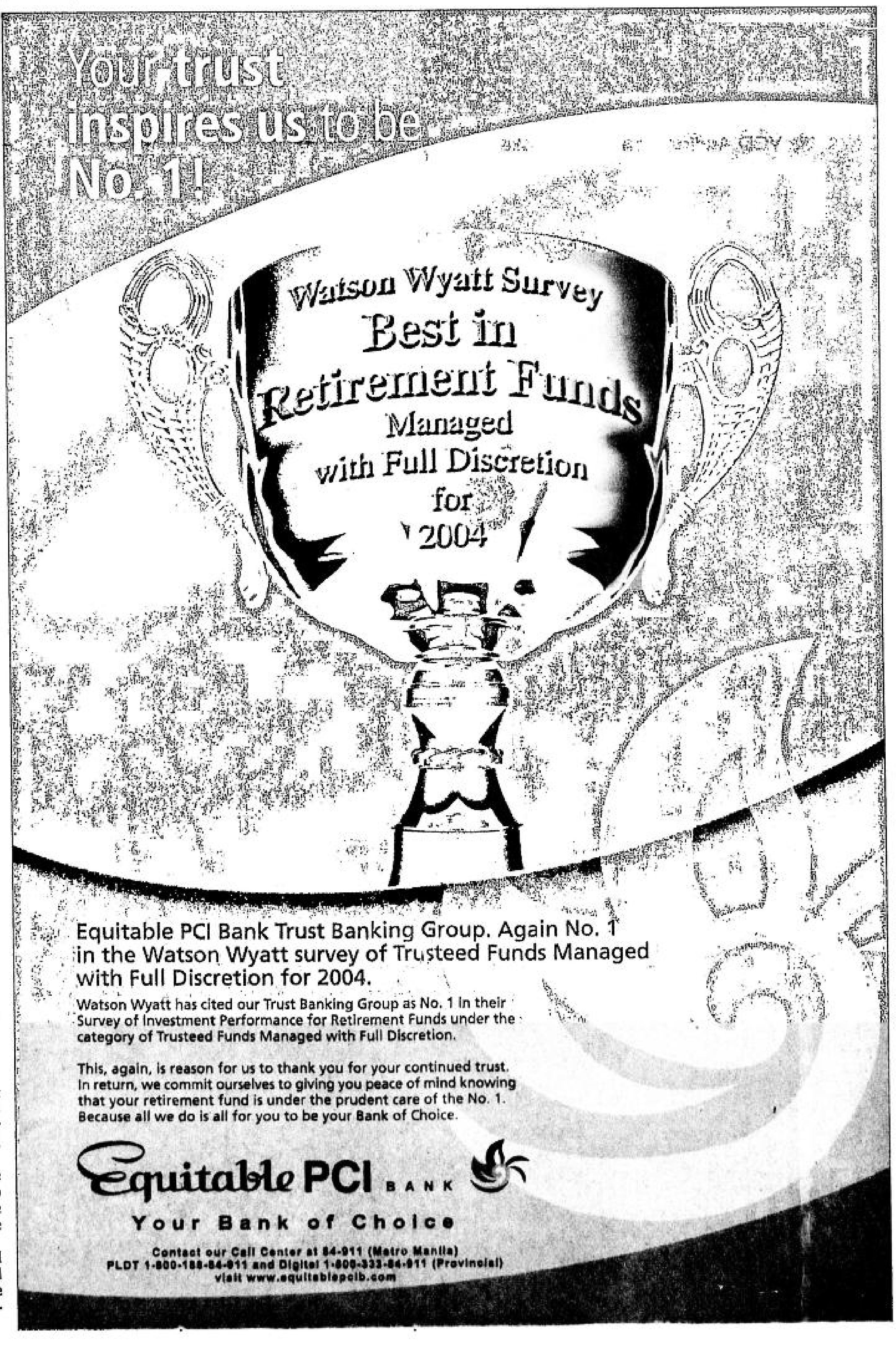
Prior to the opening of the center, the Philippine National Police had directed police stations to coordinate with local government units in the construction of community police assistance centers.

The Barangay Addition Hills center was the first Compac launched after the PNP started the program, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said during the inauguration.

The center on Martinez Street has an investigation room, detention cell, kitchen and an office for the commander. Reyes promised to donate a motorcycle.

Metro Manila regional police director Vidal Querol promised to assign nine policemen from the National Capital Region Police Office to the center.

Mayor Neptali Gonzales II said the 121-hectare barangay would need two more police centers. He also plans to construct a fire substation in the crowded barangay.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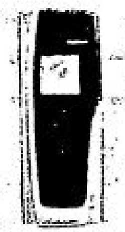
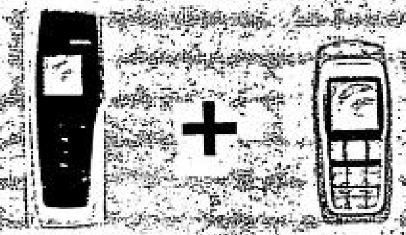
 **Nokia 9500** **Now FREE on G-Plan 3500 (from G-Plan 5000)**	 **Nokia 9500** **FREE on G-Plan 5000** + **FREE Nokia 3220 or N-Gage QD Prepaid Phonekit**

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Semifinal deadlocks up for decision today

Game 1—Talk 'N Text d. Shell, 97-74; San Miguel d. Red Bull, 89-81
Game 2—Shell d. Talk 'N Text, 94-92; Red Bull d. San Miguel, 79-77

ANTICIPATION is the operative word for Shell and Red Bull Barako when they aim for the go-ahead victory in Game 3 of the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference semifinals today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"I'm sure, they will adjust," said Shell coach Leo Austria after the Turbochargers leveled their best-of-five series against the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals at 1-1 Wednesday night. "It's just a matter of predicting what adjustments they'll make."

Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, however, offered a more concrete forecast following the Barako's 79-77 decision over the Beermen in Game 2.

"I'm expecting San Miguel to use Danny Seigle on Friday (today)," said Guiao. "As the league's leading local scorer, he's very capable of giving them a lift."

Seigle, tops among locals with his 23.5 points per game average, missed the Beermen's last five games after suffering a third-degree sprain in a loss to Talk 'N Text on May 18.

TAULAVA: Reinstatement looms

The Beermen's chief gunner showed up in uniform but rode the bench in Game 2. Now, coach Jong Uichico has all the reasons to tap him in SMB's 7:30 p.m. date with Red Bull.

After breaking their long losing spell against the Phone Pals with a 94-92 squeaker, the Turbo Chargers are looking forward to reaching the best-of-seven championship series for the first time in six years.

"Our confidence has level definitely soared," said Austria, whose Turbochargers lost seven straight games against the Phone Pals prior to their Game 2 victory. "We're two games away from the Finals and the players are aware of that."

Shell and Talk 'N Text collide anew at 4:45 p.m.

But the road to the Finals will be doubly hard for the Turbo Chargers with the possibility of an Asi Taulava reinstatement looming in the horizon.

The Bureau of Immigration and the Department of Justice have recognized Taulava's right to play in the PBA following a recent Court of Appeals decision upholding the Talk 'N Text slotman's claim to Filipino citizenship.

Commissioner Noli Eala said the league's board of governors will tackle the Taulava issue on Monday.

"The board still has the final say on whether he will be reinstated or not," said Eala.

It has been the league's position that only an order from the DOJ will prompt the PBA to reinstate Taulava.

"We're already having problems with (Jerald) Honeycutt," said Shell's Rich Alvarez. "With Taulava around, it will definitely add up to our burden in the shaded lane." June Navarro

GAMES TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
4:45 p.m.—Shell vs Talk 'N Text
7:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer

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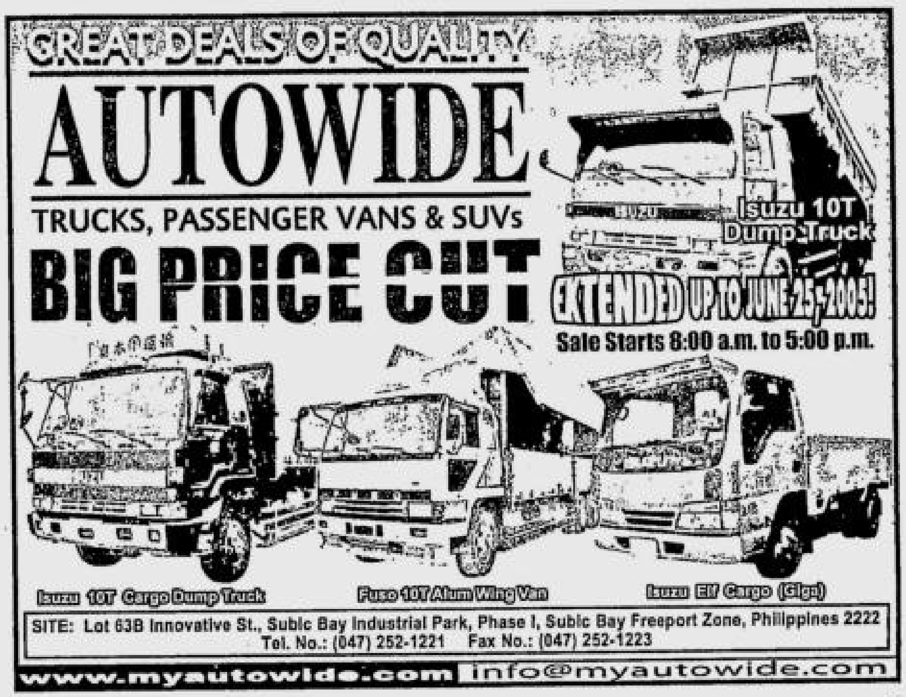

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Solar Sports, 2 others bid for PBA TV rights

By June Navarro

THE EXCLUSIVE television coverage of the Philippine Basketball Association will soon be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

At least three media outfits have already signified their intention to corner the television rights of Asia's first pay-for-play professional league on a long-term basis.

Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday said Solar Entertainment, the country's leading sports cable network, has joined IBC-13 and ABC-5, the pro league's current television partner, as bidder.

"We're very satisfied with the initial discussions with the three bidders," said Eala. "It looks promising."

The PBA board will also decide whether to allow Asi Taulava to suit up for Talk 'N Text in the playoffs after the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration recently upheld his claim to Filipino citizenship.

"Right now, we're in a continuous process of evaluating his (Taulava) case," said Eala. "The board will take it up in the meeting and then we scrutinize the possibilities."

Solar Entertainment, which boasts of upbeat sports cable channels like Solar Sports and Sports Plus, will present its proposal to the PBA Board of Governors on Monday along with IBC-13 and ABC-5.

"From these outfits, we're confident that we would be able to get the best possible contract," said Eala.

He added that the winning bid would most likely seal a long-term deal with the terms of reference to be increased from one to three years instead of a one-conference contract.

ABC-5, which saved the PBA from its television woes with the NBN-IBC consortium last year, has an existing contract with the league until the final playdate of the ongoing Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference playoffs.

IBC-13 broke its partnership with NBN-4 and came knocking back on the doors of the PBA armed with a new offer, a source from the government-owned station said.

"The bidders could present a proposal which could run for three years," said Eala. "It's just a matter of justifying their bid."

Cage polls reset as aspirants lack official endorsements

By Musong R. Castillo

THE ELECTIONS for the first set of officers of the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. was called off yesterday due to the failure of some stakeholders to produce endorsements from their mother leagues authorizing them to seek posts.

"I was informed that not all incorporators would be able to present the resolutions from their mother organizations," Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado said in an official press statement.

"It's just a matter of completing the required documents because we at the POC are sticklers for rules and proper procedures," added Aventajado, the POC representative to the elections.

He said only the representatives from the Na-

CAGE/ A24

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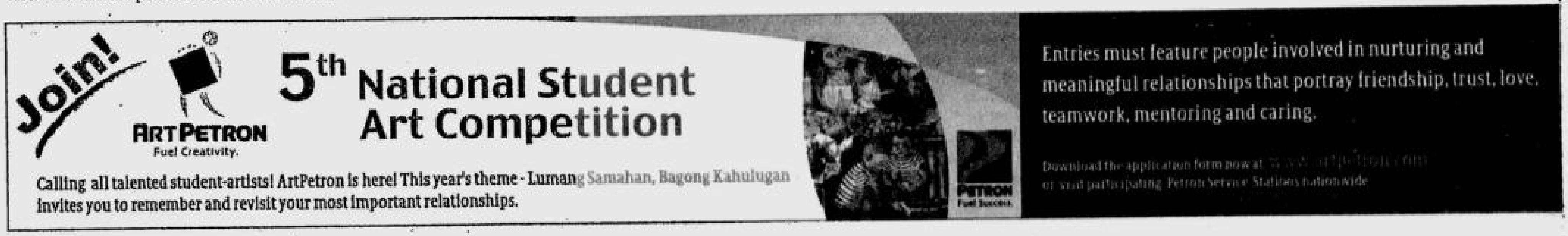

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Valencia dribblers back on track, repulse Warriors

ILOILO CITY—After two heartbreaking losses, the Valencia Golden Harvest avoided a fourth-quarter meltdown to beat the Iloilo Warriors, 85-77, Wednesday night in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the University of San Agustin gym here.

Holy Cross of Davao's 6-foot-4 standout Eliazar Berami sparkled with 16 points, 13 boards, two steals and two blocks to lead Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Golden Harvest to their third win in seven outings in the Southern Conference.

High-flying guard Jester Adams also helped frustrate the Warriors of IBL president Robert Uy and strong supporter Gov. Niel Tupas by scoring 24 points, grabbing nine rebounds and issuing six assists.

Valencia led from start to finish and posted its biggest margin of 81-64 in the fourth period.

Over at the San Dionisio gym in Parañaque, the KSK Food Products/Boy Bawang-backed Jets dealt the Zamboanga del Norte Hornbills their fifth straight setback, 94-80, to level their record at 3-3 in the nationwide tournament.

Randly Lopez, Rollie Basilides and Larry Rodriguez paced the Jets with 20, 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Mantawi (Mandaue) leads the Souther Conference with a 1-0 card, followed by Ozamiz (6-1), Tribu Sugbu (3-1), Iligan (3-2), Valencia (3-4), CdO Stars (1-2), Iloilo (1-3) and Zanorte (0-5).

The RP-BAP team paces the North at 2-0, followed by Forward Taguig (4-1), Parañaque (3-3), CAvite (2-4), Baguio(1-2), and Laguna Spring (1-3).

Action continues today with the Hornbills playing Taguig at the CP Tinga gym and Tribu Sugbu meeting Iligan at Cebu Coliseum. Both matches will start at 6 p.m.

The scores:

VALENCIA 85—Adams 24, Berami 16, Nallon 16, Cabili 15, Toring 8, Celiz 4, Culduro 2, Madera 0, Taligatos 0, Bayron, Gragasin 0, Cesar 0, Clavel 0, Mojado 0.

ILOILO 77—Senierez 18, Allado 15, Sencil 11, Leonida 8, Pisuena 8, Manuel 7.

Quarters: 22-14, 44-31, 63-55, 85-77.

PARAÑAQUE 94—Lopez 20, Basilides 11, Rodriguez 10, Bognot 9, Yambao 9, Saquilayan 9, Tolentino 8, Ruiz 7, Gulyab 6, Marquez 4.

ZANORTE 80—Cuevas 21, Getubig 15, Arquero 14, Damonsong 10, Ober 6, Santander 6, Jaro 3, Dumapig 2, Bellingan 2.

Quarters: 19-23, 52-40, 71-65, 94-80.

La Salle rips UST, forges three-way tie

LA SALLE capitalized on Santo Tomas' poor defense to score a 25-18, 25-19, 29-27 victory yesterday and forge a three-way tie for the lead in the Shakey's V-League semifinals at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Banking on the heroics of guest player Michelle Carolino, La Salle took a commanding 15-3 lead in the first set and went on to claim the succeeding sets in one hour and 16 minutes. The Lady Archers caught the Tigresses and the Lady Eagles on top at 2-1.

GAMES SATURDAY
(Rizal Stadium)
3 p.m.—La Salle vs. San Sebastian
5 p.m.—Ateneo vs. Santo Tomas

The Tigresses absorbed their first loss in the semifinals after winning over Ateneo and San Sebastian in the first two games.

Earlier, veterans Amelia Guanco and Cecile Tabuena joined forces to lead Ateneo against San Sebastian, 23-25, 25-23, 25-14, 25-22.

Guanco, a former national team mainstay, scored 17 kills, all but three coming from attacks while Tabuena, a beach volley veteran from La Salle-Bacolod, scored eight of her 15 points in the final set.

Carolino, last season's MVP, finished with a game-high 16 points to spark La Salle, which went into a slump in the later part of the eliminations. The Lady Archers lost to Ateneo on the first playing day of the semifinals.

"*Unti-unting bumabalik ang kumpiyansa* ng players ko, (The girls are slowly getting the confidence they had in the eliminations)," La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus said. "*Tingin ko, kaya na namin ito ituloy-tuloy*. (I think we can sustain this)."

Varsity standouts Manilla Santos and Desiree Hernandez contributed to La Salle's offense, with 11 and 10 markers, respectively, mostly on spikes that caught the UST defenders flatfooted.

Mary Jean Balse, the inaugural conference MVP and UAAP Rookie of the Year last year, was the lone bright spot for the Tigresses, registering 15 points.

UST standout Roxanne Pimentel hit a slump, scoring only eight points, and Joyce Pano also had a bad day, contributing just seven points on the third day of the semifinals backed by Accel, Mikasa, IBC-13 and Jemah Television.

MIKASA
ATENEO
15
11
DEVANADERA
1

SAN Sebastian's Cherry Macatangay (11) and Rysabelle Devanadera (1) block a spike by Ateneo's Amelia Guanco.
RYAN LIM

Criterium races kick off tonight at Intramuros

THE ARAW ng Maynila celebrations continue into the night when the 2nd Cycling Search Invitational Series criterium races kick off today around the historic walls of Intramuros.

About 200 cyclists will see action in the country's first road competition to be held at night. The event is part of the 235th anniversary rites of the City of Manila.

They will negotiate a 2.8-km course marked by sharp twists and turns, providing a test for the riders' tactical skills and putting a premium on teamwork among the different squads competing for top honors in the five categories of the event backed by the Philippine Postal Corp., PCSO, Intramuros administration and the Manila Sports Council headed by chair Ali Atienza.

Supervising the criterium is Ding Cruz, the senior of two of the country's only accredited international racing commissars.

Masco chief Atienza said he is grateful that the organizers pick the Araw ng Maynila to kick off the four-leg series that will also make stops in Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Ilocos Sur.

"We are encouraging all Manileños to watch this first-of-a-kind cycling event to be held in our fair city," said Atienza, son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. "The Cycling Search Invitational captures the festive spirit on the city's foundation day."

Both Atienzas have been invited to flag off the participants starting at 8 p.m. in front of Clamshell 2 beside Plazuela de Sta. Isabel along General Luna Street.

The event is also backed by TCL, Partas, Maximum Electronics and Avia.

Pasay derby fires off today

DERBY veterans from different cockpits in Luzon clash today in another 4-cock derby at the Pasay City Cockpit. The 62-fight program, sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, offers a cash pot of P300,000 and is hosted hosted by El Pando Magic Group. Entry fee is only P10,000. Seeing action today are Bobby Doromal, Edgar Coronel, Ricky Valencia and G. Capucchino of Pasig Square Garden, Greg Eligado and Sam Mendoza of Cainta Fair Center Coliseum, Joel Fernando, Lito Alcantara, Ramon Mancenares, Joey Lapid and Jack Chung of the PCCA, Rey Briones, the Golden Circle Group, Lito Orillaza and William Co of Makati Coliseum, among others. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750. Lito Roque of Bulacan will host another 4-cock derby on July 1.

50 teams on tap as Streetball Minda elims begins

SOME 50 teams will vie for honors in the seniors and girls divisions of the adidas Streetball Challenge which kicks off its Mindanao qualifiers today with the staging of the Cagayan de Oro leg at the Pelaez gym in Cagayan de Oro City.

Up for grabs in the one-day pocket tournament are berths in the regional finals set July 12-14 at the NCCC gym in Davao City with the winners earning the right to represent Mindanao in the National Finals slated July 30-31 at the Festival Mall in Alabang.

The elims serves as the final stop of the four-month long, nationwide tournament sponsored by top sports apparel adidas, co-presented by Globe Gentxt, and backed by McDonald's, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers chocolate bar, Coppertone, adidas fragrance and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Milo, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.

The crack Pampanga squad leads the Luzon finalists with three teams in the seniors, midgets and girls divisions while Urdaneta City ruled the junior category to gain a spot in the national finals.

University of San Carlos, on the other hand, dominated the Visayas finals with two teams in the girls and midgets divisions while University of Cebu-B and University of Southern Philippines Foundation, Inc. took the seniors and juniors titles, respectively to join the Manila joust.

A spirited battle for berths in the Mindanao finals is expected with the winners likewise gaining a crack at the Asian Streetball Finals which the country is hosting in September.

After the Cagayan de Oro leg, action in the half-court game of street basketball resumes on July 2 at Ateneo de Zamboanga.

For inquries, call Team Ventures at 522-5953 or 400-9745.

Silent Pacquiao favored in New York

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IN a big battle that will be decided by words, Manny Pacquiao has not been making any noise.

Pacquiao wore a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and dark slacks.

That exactly was how the Star's main man Joaquin Henson described the Filipino world boxing celebrity in a report from New York on Wednesday.

Pacquiao is fighting but he's not taking off his shirt and putting on the boxing gloves.

He's not, unlike in the run-up to his last big fight in Las Vegas, talking much.

He's not talking at all.

Pacquiao is in the midst of a federal court hearing on the $33-million suit he filed against New Jersey promoter Murad Muhammad.

***

A jury of eight has been picked by federal judge Loretta Peska, 56, from an initial pool of 30, Henson said.

The jury is made up of six women and two men, all from New York. Only one is black.

The jurors are composed of a bank officer, an insurance underwriter, an ad agency art director, an anthropology professor, a real estate executive assistant, and an advertising employee, Henson reported.

Witnesses are expected to conclude their testimonies Tuesday next week.

Henson added that, in picking the eight jurors, Preska made sure they "had no biases on issues related to boxing and no links to individuals involved in the sport."

Preska maintained that the case must be decided on issues of fact, based on evidence—direct and circumstantial.

"The only evidence to consider will be from witnesses and exhibits," the judge said.

***

As the defendant, promoter Murad Muhammad will have to convince the jury he did nothing untoward in taking hefty cuts from Pacquiao's purses, mainly the profits from the pay-per-view superfight against Mexican Erik Morales in March.

The main charge against Murad revolves around malversation, with the American promoter being accused of taking unlawful portions from Pacquiao's deserved earnings starting with the world title bout against African Lehlo Ledwabah in 2001.

From initial feeds, it appears Pacquiao's lawyers have enough ammunition to pin down the flamboyant and talkative Murad, former security man of Muhammad Ali.

Boxing expert Hermie Rivera said famous fight lawyer Judd Burnstein "has guaranteed a court win for Pacquiao in his suit against his former handlers."

***

Murad is expected to offer the fantastic tale that it was he and himself alone who made Pacquiao an international boxing celebrity.

How untrue. "Everybody knows that Pacquiao was already world caliber when Murad hit the jackpot after he managed to squeeze Pacquiao in as a last-minute replacement in the Ledwabah defense," Rivera explained.

Pacquiao's first big step to stardom in the US was nothing deliberate or planned, as Murad would love to assert in an effort to grab full credit.

Pacquiao fought Ledwabah in the Mike Tyson undercard as a last-minute substitute.

Rivera said Murad is offering a very weak excuse in insisting Pacquiao was his creation.

Why? Because Pacquiao had been a WBC flyweight champ, meaning he was not exactly raw and obscure, before Murad could gamble on the sensational southpaw from GenSan.

Anyway, granting he indeed discovered, developed, coddled and goaded Pacquiao to stardom, should this grant Murad the right to take liberties at the fighter's purses?

***

Anyway, Murad who's capable of declaming non-stop for a week, could be talking himself hoarse to deflect the charges.

Not Pacquiao. Prior to leaving Manila for the hearing, the knockout artist had kept mum on his legal battle against Murad.

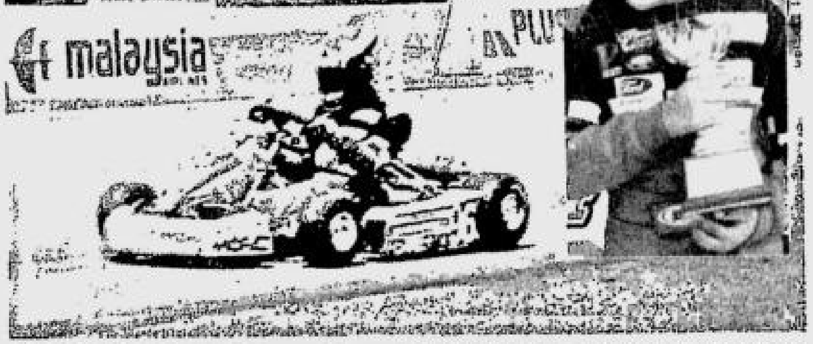
Maybe Pacquiao is fully convinced he has a solid win-win case, and there's no use risking his edge with unnecessary blabber.

This brand-new Pacquiao in New York is very different from the over-anxious plodder who faced Erik Morales in March.

Let's replay part of a postmortem on that failed bid in Las Vegas: "Pacquiao himself admitted he had lacked the necessary shifts and movements, mainly in the lateral area. In a fight wherein the requirement for victory was for Pacquiao to surpass himself, he proved predictable, tentative and often hollow. He also had to do a lot of talking in the pre-fight, unlike Morales who stayed focused, mysteriously quiet in his camp up the Mexican mountains."

The prayer here is for Pacquiao to quietly stick to his newfound characteristic.

Silence could prove golden outside the federal court, but it could be doubly so for Pacquiao in a major boxing campaign.



ALESSANDRA Madrigal steps on the gas in the final straight at the Subang Jaya track.

Madrigal rallies to finish 2nd in Selangor kart tilt

SELANGOR, Malaysia—Filipina karting prodigy Alessandra Madrigal rallied from fought on the grid to finish a fighting second in the Plus Rotax Max Challenge 2005 at the Fastrack Speedzone Elite in Subang Jaya here.

The 9-year-old Madrigal overcame her unfamiliarity with the track and the extra 10-kg weight handicap to clock 12 minutes and 27.73 seconds, just 3.51 seconds off Malaysian winner Mohammed Hiqmar Danial in the Cadet 85 class.

"It was a great experience and I'm proud of my performance here," said Madrigal, who races for Alessandra Racing Team and is backed by ING Private Banking, Puma and Globe Gizmo and co-sponsors Dickies, Petron Ultron, Ford Global City and Nissan Gallery. "I did my best and never gave up."

Madrigal also scored a podium finish in the Trulli 85 class in the Toyota Youth Kart Experience Challenge Cup 2005 at the Bira Race Circuit in Thailand a week before.

Her Thailand stint was made possible through the support of Thomas Raldorf and the crews of Italkart and the Pizza Company.

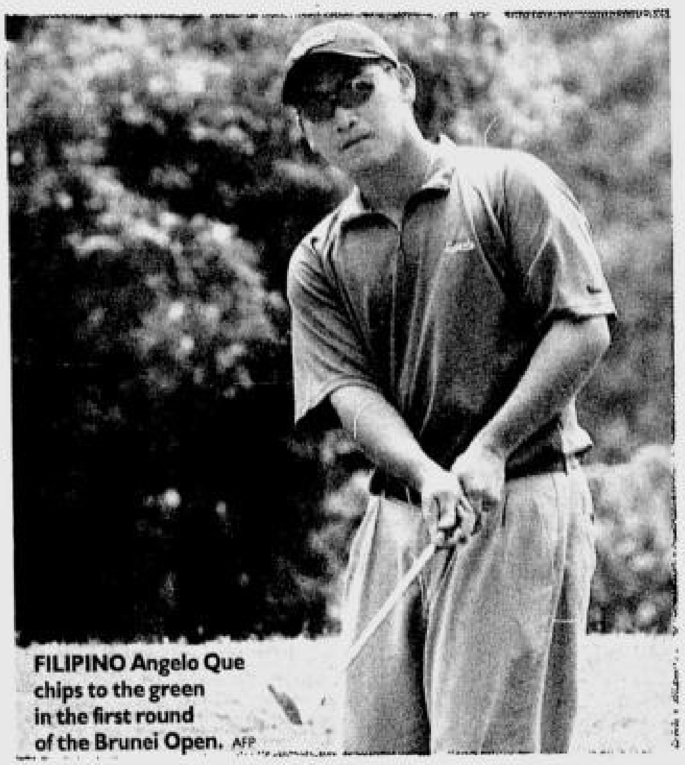
Another Filipino, Madrigal's coach Allan Uy, likewise amazed the Malaysian gallery with a fourth-place finish in the Senior Rotax class. Uy started 21st on the grid.

Madrigal clocked 48.99 seconds in the qualifying time trials to land fourth in the first heat behind Danial, Andrew Tang of Singapore and Brian Homi Mehta, another Malaysian.

The Filipina youngster dropped to fifth in the second heat.

In the main race, Madrigal passed Homi and Tang but could not bridge the gap that Danial had established early in the race.

Goh Renzhi took third place, 13 seconds behind Madrigal, while Dareed Haziq Hasim of Malaysia, Zaim Rasyad of Singapore and Ken Koda of Japan wound up fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, in the field of 12 karters.



FILIPINO Angelo Que chips to the green in the first round of the Brunei Open. AFP

Miñoza trails Chia by 4 at start of Brunei Open

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Frankie Miñoza shot a four-under-par 67 to lead a strong Philippine showing at the start of the inaugural $300,000 Brunei Open on Thursday.

Miñoza, back on the Asian Tour after skipping the Philippine Open for the second straight year, trailed by four shots Malaysia's Danny Chia, who fired a sparkling 63 behind six birdies and an eagle at the par-71 Empire Hotel and Country Club course.

Jerome Delariarte was the next best Filipino with a 70 while Cookie Lao, Cassius Casas and Gerard Rosales matched par 71.

Angelo Que, who won the Vietnam Open last year, opened with a 72 but Danny Zarate started poorly with a 75.

The 32-year-old Chia, who will make history next month by becoming the first Malaysian to play at the British Open at St. Andrews, took a two-stroke lead over Thaworn Wirathchat of Thailand and Australians Jason Dawes and Glenn Joyner.

MIÑOZA PDI PHOTO

Chia was sixth in the Philippine Open last May which Adam Le Vesconte won.

Le Vesconte, still inspired by his breakthrough win at the Club Malarayat in Lipa City, shot a 68 like seven others.

Indians Amandeep Johl, Ashok Kumar and Gaurav Ghei, and Australians Jarrod Lyle and Terry Pilkadaris also had 67s, like Miñoza, the highest ranked Filipino in the Asian Tour at No. 26.

Chia was the toast of the day. "I was solid all round. When I arrived in Brunei, I didn't feel comfortable with my swing but I found a new feel in my technique and struck the ball nicely today," said the Malaysian, the 2002 Taiwan Open champion."

RP riders eye Asian moto titles

MACAU—The biggest Philippine motocross contingent set foot here yesterday with high hopes of bringing home titles at stake in the 3rd leg of the FIM Asian Motocross Championship set this weekend, June 25-26.

RP ace rider and 2003 FIM Asian Motocross champion Glenn Aguilar is optimistic he could nose out toughest rival Christian Horwood of Australia this time in their quest for the coveted Asian 125 cc crown.

That's because the NAMSSA Philippine Motocross Team, whose Macau stint is supported by Air Macau and the Philippine Sports Commission, expects good chances upon learning it was raining heavily all week long here.

Still piping hot after dominating their respective classes, the team's experience in the rain-drenched Talisay City leg of the Camel Supercross races last weekend could serve as the perfect simulator of the race conditions they have to deal with here.

Aguilar, currently with 87 points, is second in the title chase behind Horwood, who garnered 94 points following his opening round win in Guam in February and the Philippine leg held in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, last March.

Riding alongside Aguilar in the event are Kenneth San Andres, the 2004 Rookie of the Year, Gabriel de la Cruz, and Joshua Abellar.

Filipino jins vying in Korea

ATHENS Olympic veterans Mary Antoinette Rivero and Tshomlee Go head the Petron National Taekwondo Team which will see action in the 5th Korea Open Chuncheon International Championships set June 26 to July 1 in Chuncheon City, Korea.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president and Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert N. Aventajado admits that "this (Korea Open) is a tough event, but I'm confident that our athletes will be able to perform well."

Around 50 to 70 countries, including Korea Chinese Taipei, France, United States, Germany and Iran, will vie for honors.

Joining Rivero and Go on the team supported by Petron, Philippine Sports Commission and Accel are Manuel Rivero Jr., Alexander Briones, Ernesto Juan Mendoza III, Jose Carlos Padilla V, Dax Alberto Morfe, Brix Darmo Ramos, Jeffrey Figueroa, Kathleen Eunice Alora, Loraine Lorelie Catalan, Sara Joy Arellano, Esther Marie Singson, Kirstie Elaine Alora and Veronica Domingo. The officials are Stephen Fernandez, head coach; Jesus Morales III, men's coach; and Roberto Cruz and Raul Samson, women's coaches.

PLDT, San Mig enter tourney

PLDT and San Miguel/Powerade were among the teams which have confirmed their participation in the 2005 Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup Badminton Tournament slated July 18-24 at the Club 650 and SM Megamall Atrium.

Other teams seeing action are Meralco, Pagcor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Pilipinas Shell, IBC-13, NBI, Carlton, Dunlop, Ateneo Technomarine, Crossover 105.1, 3M Philippines and Celestron Cable TV.

The organizing Team Powerplay expects 10 more teams to register before the deadline on June 27. For details, contact tournament hotline 8998920 and look for Mon Lindo (0919-3428880) or e-mail at teampowerplay@yahoo.com.

Events on tap are men's and ladies' doubles (21-34 years old), men's and ladies' doubles (35 and above), and mixed doubles (open).

On its third year, the event will introduce the Corporate Classic and Corporate Masters.

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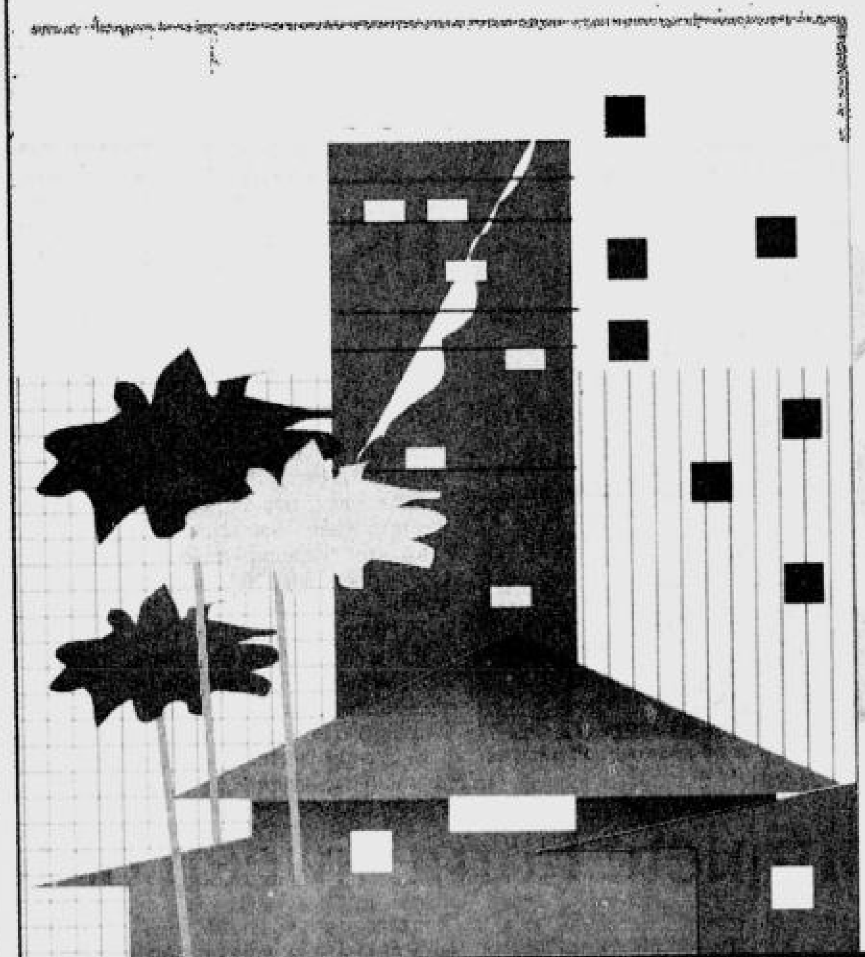

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Safin, Federer down Wimby rivals

JAN Hernych from Czech Republic hits a shot to Lleyton Hewitt from Australia during their second round match. AFP

LONDON—Marat Safin's new love affair with grass blossomed in the Wimbledon sunshine on Wednesday as the Russian bludgeoned past former finalist Mark Philippoussis.

His 7-6 7-6 6-4 victory kept him on course for a quarter-final meeting with Australian Lleyton Hewitt after the 2002 champion saw off Czech Jan Hernych 6-2 7-5 3-6 6-3.

World number one Roger Federer remains the man to beat, however, and the Swiss world number one swatted aside Czech Ivo Minar, 6-4, 6-4, 6-1, in 82 stress-free minutes.

Top seed Federer, aiming for a third successive Wimbledon title, extended his winning streak on grass to 31 to book a third-round meeting with Germany's Nicolas Kiefer.

In the women's draw Kim Clijsters and world number one Lindsay Davenport stayed on collision course for a fourth round slug-fest while French third seed Amelie Mauresmo also joined them in the third round.

Safin, the once self-confessed hater of Wimbledon's treacherous green lawns, survived three set points in the opening set of a sledgehammer duel against injury-prone wildcard Philippoussis, now ranked 142 in the world.

From that moment on the burly Australian Open champion, beaten by Federer in the final at Halle last week, caught fire on a sun-bathed Centre Court, sealing victory with his 20th booming ace.

"I couldn't feel comfortable on this surface before I played at Halle," said the 25-year-old Safin, who faces dangerous Spaniard Felicano Lopez in the third round.

"It's really important to have fun on grass and all of a sudden it came to me and I feel pretty good. I don't know how to explain it."

Federer, who faces Nicolas Kiefer in the third round, was never seriously tested against the 99th-ranked Minar, appearing in the main draw at Wimbledon for the first time.

The Swiss machine was not totally satisfied with his performance, however, and predicted that Safin, who beat him in the semi-finals of the Australian Open, is a danger.

Belgian former world number one Clijsters, lurking dangerously as the 15th seed, needed just 44 minutes to scorch past American Marissa Irvin 6-1 6-1.

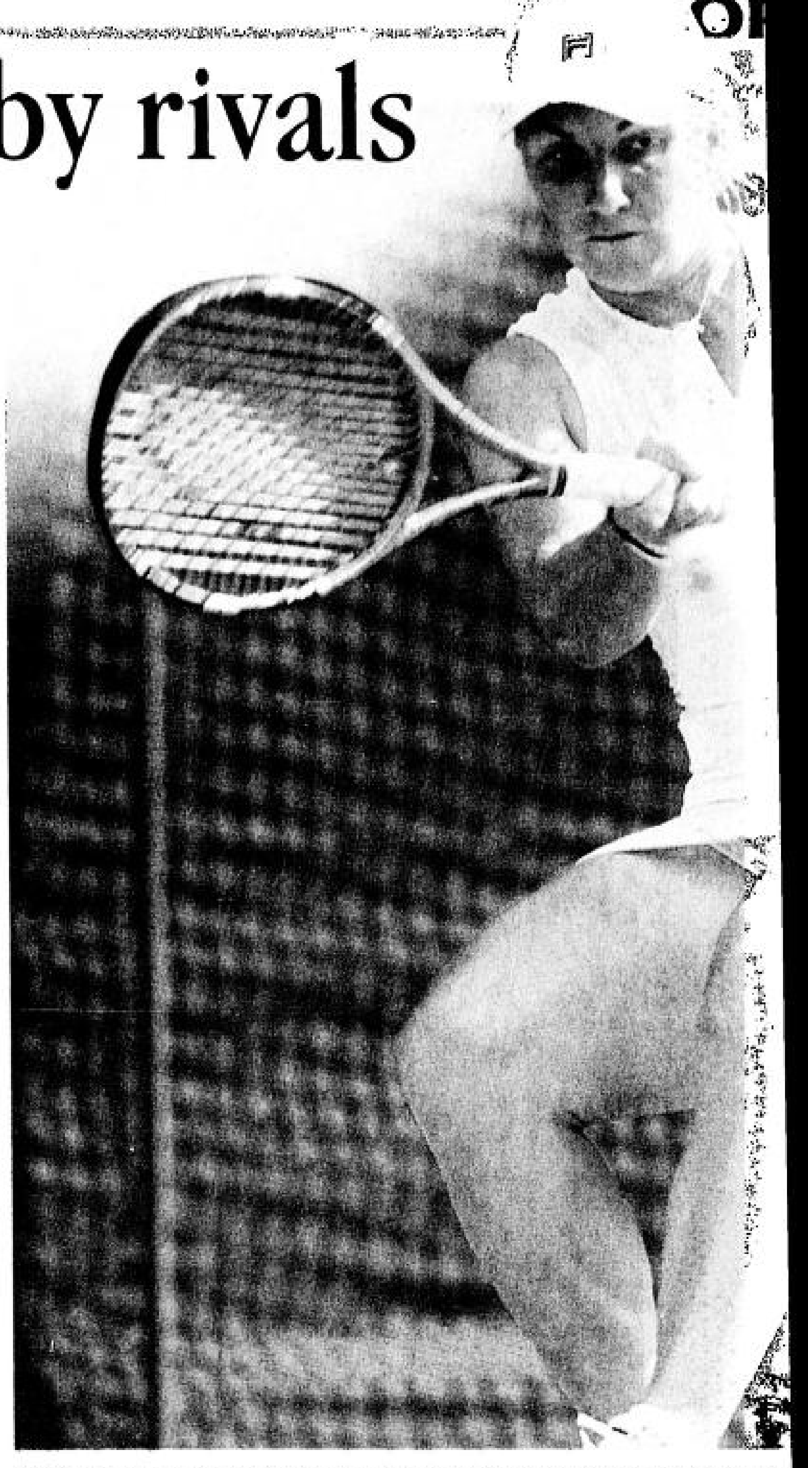
Davenport, champion in 1999, showed little mercy as she demolished fellow American Jamea Jackson 6-0 6-3, trampling through a lop-sided first set in 17 minutes.

Third seed Amelie Mauresmo also made impressive progress, despatching Spain's Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo 6-1 6-3.

There was no easy ride for ninth seed Anastasia Myskina, who went through her full repertoire of on-court theatrics during a 6-4 6-3 defeat of Aiko Nakamura.

The 23-year-old Moscovite who has been beset by personal problems and poor results this year, stewed, fretted and ranted at the umpire during an edgy 6-4 6-3 victory over 94th-ranked Nakamura on another baking hot day.

Sixth seed Elena Dementieva, twice a grand slam finalist last year subdued German qualifier Sabine Klaschka 2-6 6-3 8-6. *Reuters*



SVETLANA Kuznetsova of Russia returns to India's Sania Mirza, during their wom

Teens take charge

LONDON—Teenagers take center stage at Wimbledon on Thursday with Maria Sharapova, Rafael Nadal, Richard Gasquet and Andrew Murray all in second round action.

Sharapova, who beat Serena Williams in last year's final, is relishing defending her crown this time around.

"I love going out there and challenging myself... I love when people want to beat me or underestimate me," the 18-year-old Russian said.

Serena, going for her third title, faces Italy's Mara Santangelo while older sister Venus, also a twice former champion, plays Australia's Nicole Pratt.

In the men's field, French Open winner Rafael Nadal takes on Gilles Muller of Luxembourg while number seed two Andy Roddick continues his campaign for a first Wimbledon title.

Nadal is looking to be the first player since Bjorn Borg in 1980 to achieve back-to-back victories at Roland Garros and Wimbledon but the 19-year-old is not talking up his chances. Should he come through, Nadal's next opponent is likely to be Gasquet. *Reuters*

Garcia bids to duplicate Els' record

HARRISON, New York—Sergio Garcia will try to join Ernie Els as the only players to successfully defend a title at the Westchester Country Club when the the $5.7 million Barclays Classic starts Thursday.

With his playoff victory over Padraig Harrington and Rory Sabbatini here last year, Garcia has already become one of just five multiple winners of the event, adding the title to the won he captured in 2001.

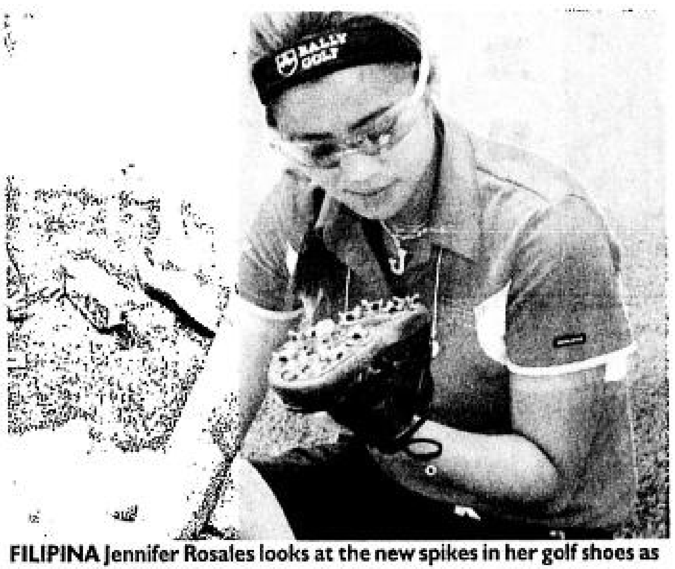
Only Els, in 1996-97, has won back-to-back crowns, but Garcia must fancy his chances of matching that feat after his victory in the Booz Allen at Congressional leading into last week's US Open, where the Spaniard finished tie for third.

"I feel good. Saturday I didn't make a putt, which is a shame, but I still feel good about my game," Garcia said. "I felt like I performed nicely on that course. I tied for third at a major and that is never a bad thing."

If there is one place Garcia might pick to play the week after being subjected to the grueling conditions of Pinehurst No. 2, this would probably be the course. The talented Spaniard has 19 consecutive rounds of par or better at the Barclays and is the all-time leading money winner at the event with $2,042,375 in earnings.

A six-time PGA Tour winner, Garcia will try to become the first three-time winner in the history of the tournament. To pull it off, he'll have to deal with a field that includes five of the top 11 ranked players in the world.

Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els and Retief Goosen are not entered but Vijay Singh, Chris DiMarco and Kenny Perry are. *AFP*



FILIPINA Jennifer Rosales looks at the new spikes in her golf shoes as she gets ready for the US Women's Open. AP

US Open: Sorenstam read

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colorado—Annika Sorenstam is halfway to women's golf's Grand Slam, but as she looked toward the US Open starting here on Thursday, the Swedish superstar said she was barely there.

"These next two are going to be the toughest," Sorenstam said. "This is the challenge I have been looking for and it's all about controlling your emotions.

Sorenstam has cruised to victory in the year's first two majors, winning the Nabisco Championship by eight strokes and the LPGA Championship two weeks ago by three.

Despite the fact that she'll start as prohibitive favorite in both the US Open and women's British Open at Royal Birkdale next month, Sorenstam said the last two will have as much to do with her mind as her swing.

"Golf is such a mental game and I'm trying to keep my emotions intact and trying to focus on the things I know I can control, which are the shots I am going to hit. The way I look at it, my ball has no idea where I am or what it's going to do."

Sorenstam said her experience of playing on the men's tour at the Colonial two years ago - where her every move was scrutinized, will stand her in good stead as she seeks the 10th major title of her career.

"Colonial is going to play a big part in this," said Sorenstam, who since that week has won 19 of 38 LPGA starts. "Being under the microscope is something I have learned from and taken notes from. I am going to need all the experience I have got, but that's why I do this."

To win, she will have to master a difficult course at Cherry Hills, where Arnold Palmer overcame a six-shot final-round deficit to capture the 1960 US Open.

The punishing rough may be less daunting to Sorenstam, who has found the fairway with 76 percent of her tee shots this year.

"We have very small greens and the rough is very thick," she said. "They are trying to give us

Astros complete home sweep of Rockies

TORONTO—Morgan Ensberg hit a three-run homer and Roger Clemens yielded just one earned run over seven innings as the Houston Astros dumped the Colorado Rockies 6-2, giving the pitcher his 334th career win on Wednesday.

Clemens (6-3) gave up two runs on five hits, struck out four and walked two, improving to 3-0 in his last four starts while lowering his earned run average to a major league best of 1.51.

The win was the fifth in six games for the Astros and completed a three-game home sweep of the Rockies.

Trailing 2-0, Ensberg's 17th home run of the season brought across Craig Biggio and Lance Berkman and put the Astros in front to stay.

In Pittsburgh, Jose Guillen homered twice and Brian Schneider stroked a go ahead two-out RBI single in the eighth inning as the Washington Nationals edged the Pirates 5-4.

It was Guillen's second two-homer game in three days and fourth of the season for the former Pirate.

Schneider, however, delivered the key hit, a roller to left that scored Ryan Church who had reached on a two-out walk.

Taking over for starter John Patterson, Hector Carrasco (3-1) worked 1 2/3 scoreless innings of relief to take credit for the win.

Chad Cordero came on to work a perfect ninth to clinch the win and notch his 23rd save of the season.

In Cincinnati, Adam Dunn belted a pair of solo homeruns and Ramon Ortiz tossed seven strong innings as the Reds stormed to a big early lead then held on to down the St Louis Cardinals 7-6.

The Reds scored all seven of their runs in the first three innings, giving Ortiz (3-5) plenty of early support.

Ken Griffey Jr. and Rich Aurilia each had a pair of RBIs for the Reds, who remain unbeaten under interim manager Jerry Narron.

The righthander did his part, allowing three runs on five hits striking out five and walking three to register his second win in eight starts.

In Philadelphia, a three-run double from Kenny Lofton helped the Phillies to an 8-4 win over the New York Mets., ending a three-game losing skid.

Jim Thome contributed a solo home run to the Phillies total and Chase Utley went three-for-five with an RBI and two runs scored Tied 2-2 in the sixth, Utley sparked the Phillies burst with an RBI single to left scoring Thome before Lofton capped the big inning his three-run double to deep left.

Ryan Madson (4-2) pitched one inning of relief to take credit for the win while Royce Ring (0-2) was charged with the loss after allowing one run in 1/3 of an inning.

In Atlanta, Andruw Jones homered and drove in three runs while five pitchers combined on a four-hit shutout as Braves blanked the Florida Marlins 8-0. Horacio Ramirez (6-4) took credit for the win, scattering five hits. *Reuters*

CHICAGO Cubs second baseman
over Milwaukee Brewers' Brady C

Ayala Greenfield draws rave from local amateur stalwarts

THE AYALA Greenfield golf course can only get better.

This was the unanimous sentiment of prominent amateurs Iggy Clavecilla, Abe Rosal and Luigi Yulo after close to five hours of tackling the all-weather championship golf course designed by world-renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr.

The trio played two rounds on the front nine of the par-72 course and declared Ayala Greenfield as a windy and challenging venue with the potential of hosting major golf tournaments in the future.

The back nine of the golf course will be open for play this July.

Clavecilla, who played with buddies Mike Osmeña, Seve Roxas Chua and Francis Jimenez, found the layout of the course very exciting; the inviting greens and strong winds adding to the overall challenge.

The 57-year-old Clavecilla, known for his Philippine Seniors Amateur Open victory in 2003, was also impressed by the terrain designed in the course, which is the trademark of the classic Bobby Jones-sculpted golf courses in the country.

"The course is beautiful, and the views are great. You can see a clear view of Tagaytay on the opening holes and an unhampered sight of Mt. Makiling for the rest of the front nine," said Rosal, a bank executive who had one of his memorable games in the 8th Sta. Elena Cup in April last year.

"The greens might not be mature enough because it was only completed a few months ago, but the course has been good and challenging," said Yulo, Canlubang's team captain and a regular in the Philippine Airlines (PAL) Interclub team championships.

The last leg of the Samsung tournament will also be held at Ayala Greenfield near the end of the year.

Laurent Lamasuta, Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club general manager, said that inviting Clavecilla, Rosal, Yulo and other top golfers enables Ayala Greenfield to grasp the pulse of a regular golfer and gather inputs as to how the course can still be improved.

For inquiries about Ayala Greenfield, call 7287000, log on to www.ayalagreenfieldestates.com, or e-mail ayalasales@ayalaland.com.ph.

ABE ROSAL tries to make a short putt.

Cage polls reset as as lack official endorse

From page A21

tional Collegiate Athletic Association, the Philippine Basketball League and the Small Basketeers came up with the required resolutions needed for their election.

The University Athletic Association of the Philippines, the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Basketball Association failed to endorse their respective bets.

"It's useless," PBA board chair Buddy Encarnado said. "I suggested that we wait for ... the resolutions so we can be in a better position to commit (to the PBFI)."

It was Encarnado, earlier named as interim chair of the new body that will seek recognition from the International Amateur Basketball federation (Fiba), who informed Aventajado of the postponement.

The PBFI is being formed to take over the running of the country's basketball affairs from the suspended Basketball Association of the Philippines.

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en's singles, second round match. AP

Spurs remain confident of ending Pistons' reign

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Since this is only the third time in National Basketball Association history the past two champions have battled in the title series, it seems fitting this year's NBA final comes down to game seven.

"I think it is great," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "I can't think of anyone who would not want to be involved in something like this.

"Sure you would rather be 4-0 and go on vacation, but if somebody had said at the beginning of the year 'you are going to be in game seven of the NBA finals and it is a lock,' I would say 'I'll take it.'"

Popovich still has many of the same players on this year's team that won the NBA title in 2003.

But in Thursday's winner-take-all contest at San Antonio's SBC Center arena, the Spurs are going to have to cut down on their mistakes and match the toughness of the defending champion Detroit Pistons.

The Spurs committed a number of late turnovers and missed seven consecutive shots down the stretch in losing 95-86 in Tuesday's game six to the Pistons.

It was the first win for Detroit in San Antonio in eight years and it set the stage for the first game seven in the NBA finals since 1994 when Houston beat New York 90-84.

"We are disappointed about the game last night but we understand that we made a lot of mistakes and we did a lot of things wrong. We hope to correct those," said Spurs Tim Duncan, who finished with 21 points and 15 rebounds on Tuesday.

"I have never been in a game seven before. I am excited about it and to get to the floor."

Duncan admits to having butterflies just thinking about being in a game seven of the finals but said it won't take him long to feel comfortable on the court once the game starts.

"It will be nerve-wracking between now and then but once you get to the floor and get a minute or two into the game I will be excited to be out there," said Duncan, who registered his 16th double double in 17 finals games on Tuesday.

DUNCAN

"We are going to stick with our game plan and continue to move the ball. I want to be aggressive. I want to get the ball."

Like any great floor general, Spurs guard Manu Ginobili took the game six loss hard, personally accepting responsibility for the club's fourth quarter struggles.

"I didn't play that smart in the last two minutes and they did," said Argentina's Ginobili.

"That's the difference between winning and losing at this point of the season.

"Little mistakes are the ones that can hurt you. That part we can control. Playing smarter and moving the ball more is something we can do. We know there is another chance."

After winning the first two games by a combined 36 points, the Spurs have lacked poise and toughness in four close contests since.

The Spurs blew a 2-0 lead against the Los Angeles Lakers in last year's semi-finals and some supporters are wondering if they are headed for another collapse.

But Duncan is confident they will be able to recover from Tuesday's crushing defeat and force the tempo in game seven.

"Devastating losses are there, but if you let them affect you for more than the time that it happens then it affects your whole game," Duncan said. "Once we get all the hoopla behind us we will be ready to perform." *AFP*

Wallace eyes another solid performance

SAN ANTONIO—It was a more resilient Rasheed Wallace who atoned for his defensive blunder with seven points in the final five minutes on Tuesday to help Detroit force a seventh game in the National Basketball Associations finals.

A determined Wallace came into game six looking for redemption and he got it with 16 points, three blocks and three assists in leading the Pistons to a rare victory against the Spurs in San Antonio.

Wallace is hoping to have another solid performance and silence his many critics in a winner-take-all deciding game at the SBC Center arena on Thursday.

"I don't feel pressure," Wallace said. "No matter if it's the game-winning shot or I've got the ball on the last possession I don't feel pressure.

"Because you have to go out there and play."

Wallace acknowledged his "bonehead" play in game five, when he left Robert "Big Shot" Horry all alone on the three-point line so Horry could shoot the game-winner for the Spurs with 5.8 seconds left.

"I had to put it behind me," said Wallace.

Wallace hopes he never has to hear Horry's name again, and a victory in game seven would certainly serve that purpose.

"It has been a tough couple of days for Sheed," said Spurs guard Chauncey Billups. "But he knows we believe in him."

Billups said Wallace is a big part of the Pistons' success and he helps explain how the defending champs are able to win these wars of attrition throughout the regular season and the 2005 playoffs. *AFP*

y for tough stint

the greatest challenge they can, and I think they have succeeded.

"This is not a course you can overpower and I am going to play smart. I have had a lot of rounds in the 60s the last few months. If I don't drive it well, my iron shots have helped me.

"I have a good feel around the greens and all parts of my game are coming together, and that's why I am scoring so well."

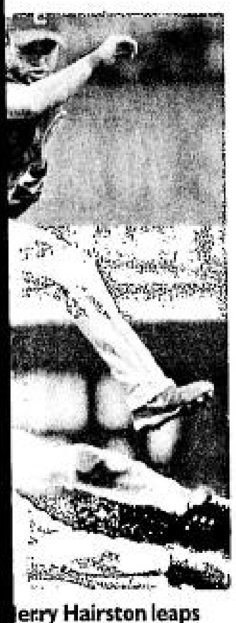
Australian Karrie Webb, who won the LPGA money title as recently as 2000, said that Sorenstam was so difficult to beat because she didn't have any weaknesses.

"She does the ordinary things very well all the time," said Webb, the 2000 and 2001 champion. "She hits the fairways, hits the greens and makes the putts she's supposed to.

"There are more than 20 players who can win this week, but Annika has that factor that a lot of people think they can't beat her.

"Some know they can, but they know to beat her, they have to play their best, and when you try to force the issue, you're not going to do it."

Webb might have been exaggerating when she said more than 20 players could beat Sorenstam this week, and it says something about the lack of real challengers that some consider 15-year-old amateur Michelle Wie to be one of the biggest threats. *AFP*



erry Hairston leaps
ark at second. AP

Reds nip Cards, share NL lead

CINCINNATI—Adam Dunn led off two straight innings with home runs and the Cincinnati Reds overpowered slumping Mark Mulder before holding on for a 7-6 win over the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday.

Dunn moved into a tie for the National League lead with his 19th and 20th home runs to help the Reds improve to 2-0 under interim manager Jerry Narron, who was promoted from bench coach on Tuesday to replace the fired Dave Miley.

"I told (Dunn) if he hits three, he's leading off Friday," Narron said.

Reds starter Ramon Ortiz (3-5) didn't allow a hit in his first career appearance against St. Louis until Mark Grudzielanek led off the fifth with his seventh home run of the season. Ortiz gave up five hits and three runs in seven innings. *AP*

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Tierro, Arcilla dispute crown

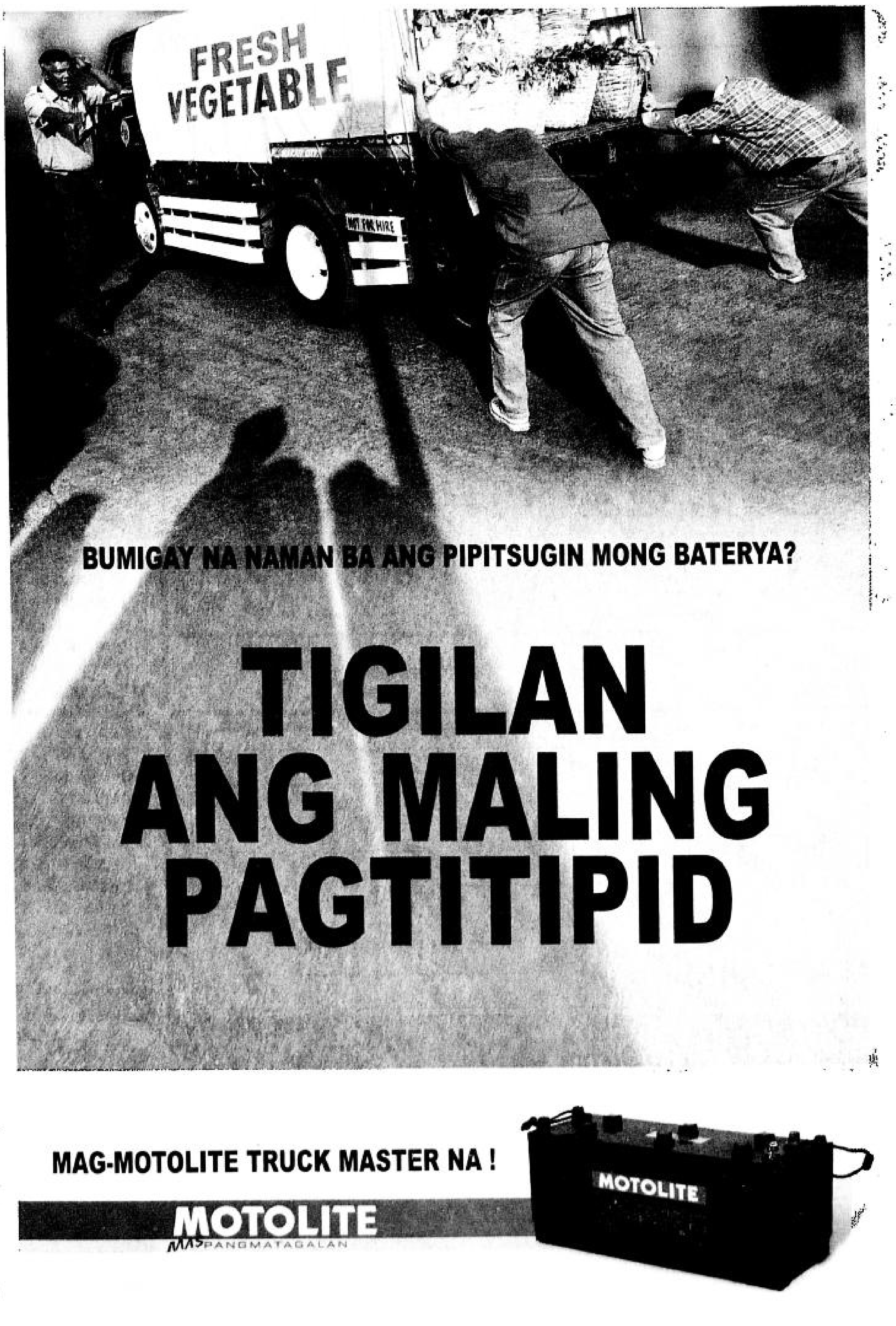
TOP RP netters Patrick John Tierro and Johnny Arcilla hurdled separate semifinals foes yesterday to arrange a winner-take-all match for the 30,000 top purse in the Philta Invitational Challenge at the Yñares Sports Center in Pasig City.

Tierro outplayed former Davis Cupper Adelo Abadia, 6-4, 6-1, 6-3, while Arcilla regained his touch in the third set to hurdle RP teammate Rolando Ruel Jr., 6-4, 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.

The victories set up the two unbeaten netters for a finals meeting today, with the runner-up settling for the 17,000 second placer purse. Abadia and Ruel meet for the third-place prize of 10,000, with the loser pocketing 6,000.

The five-day event was organized by the Philippine Tennis Association to test the worthiness of the Philippine Davis Cuppers. Tierro, Arcilla and Ruel are preparing for their coming Asia-Oceania Zone group II relegation tie against Lebanon.

The RP Cuppers are set to meet the Lebanese on July 15 to 17 on clay in Beirut for the right to remain in Group II next year.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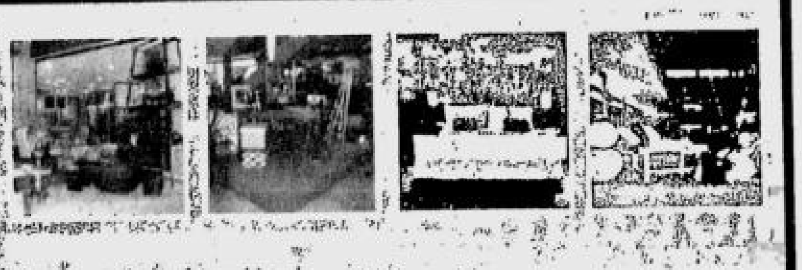

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Empire King hot favorite

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Manolo R. Iñigo

THE GRAN Copa de Manila, one of the most prestigious and widely followed events in local horseracing, returns this afternoon at its new home—the modern San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. It was held previously at the old, 16-hectare San Lazaro Hippodrome on Tayuman Street in Manila's Sta. Cruz district.

The 25th running of the Gran Copa features champion galloper Empire King as hot favorite to top Division 1 which is sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission chaired by Jaime Dilag. Also aiming for the P300,000 first prize are the unpredictable West Bound, Free Wind and Cool Runnings.

In Division II, eight horses are disputing the P180,000 first prize, namely, Flying Princess, Hazmagic, Speed O'War, Glamour, Last Snip, Sir Brendan Jean, Surprise Target and Suppressed.

According to lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr., MJCI chair and chief executive officer, the Gran Copa 'is being revived after a year's absence not only to showcase the best horses in local horseracing, but also to celebrate with the people of Manila headed by Mayor Lito Atienza the 434th Araw ng Maynila.'

"It's all systems go," said Henri Kahn, SLLP marketing executive.

He added that there are other exciting races in their weekend calendar, including Sunday's second leg (JV Ongpin Cup) of the Triple Crown series, the PCSO Maiden Race and the Hopeful Stakes Race.

In 1898, prominent members of the Manila Jockey Club conceived the idea of holding a Gran Copa race.

The historic signing of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato in late 1897 gave MJC a fitting occasion to stage a special race in the summer of the following year. The MJC ordered from Hong Kong an ornate silver cup, the "Gran Copa de Manila," to be awarded to the winner of the special race scheduled on the first day of May. But on the eve of the scheduled Gran Copa race, the Spanish-American War began, leading to the cancellation of the event.

In 1971, the silver cup was reduced to ashes by a fire that razed the old MJC clubhouse. However, in June 1980, then Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing, supported by the late Philracom chair and Makati Mayor Nemesio Yabut and officials of the MJC, revived the Gran Copa de Manila by staging the race on June 24 to coincide with Manila's Foundation Day. Luminary won that inaugural race.

***

BARAKO ON A ROLL. In my view, a large part of Red Bull's resurgence in the PBA Fiesta Conference could be credited not only to the heroics of coach Yeng Guiao's players but also to the efforts of their little-known American strength and conditioning specialist, Nathaniel "EA" Addison Jr. of Long Beach, California.

Addison is an experienced basketball coach and physical conditioner whose forte is developing speed, strength and individual skills of the players, including their attitude. Addison, who has been signed to a one-year contract by the Photokina franchise of fitness buff George Chua, also teaches Red Bull players how to avoid hard court injuries.

"What I teach is unique," said Addison. "The athletes trained by us will acquire the knowledge and wisdom to keep up their training and growth for life."

At the moment, Red Bull is giving the other teams a big scare because the Barako, aside from brimming with newfound confidence, are also reaping the handsome dividends of being in shape always.

***

LAUREL FOR VALOR. "Lutong Macao," wrote PDI contributor Nicolo F. Bernardo in the Lifestyle section on June 20, is a Filipino catchphrase for a done but fishy deal. "It is traced," Bernardo continued, "to a fatal accident in the '60s met by a Filipino car racer who had been allegedly ditched in a game in Macau."

That Filipino car racer was Arsenio "Dodjie" Laurel, a lawyer-sportsman who met a heroic death on Nov. 19, 1967, during the 14th Macau Grand Prix while aiming for a third straight Macau GP victory.

On that fateful day, Dodjie, who was only in his early 30s, sacrificed his life by choosing to slam his Lotus 41 car on the Guia Circuit seafront wall rather than hit hundreds of spectators who were lined up on the side streets. The car exploded and Laurel became the first fatality on the fabled Macau circuit since 1954 when the annual race was launched.

I first met Dodjie and his associates in the Cam Wreckers Association as a sportswriter for the now defunct Evening News, covering their weekly drag races at a quarter-mile strip in Ortigas. In 1965, upon his invitation, I joined the Philippine delegation to the Macau GP where he emerged as champion, becoming the first Filipino formula 3 racer to win a race officially recognized by the FIA (International Automobile Federation). I was also in Macau the following year to record Dodjie's second straight GP victory, but skipped Dodjie's third try in 1967 due to pressure of work. The 1967 race was won by Tony Maw, a 27-year-old Australian based in Malaysia who drove a Lotus 20.

Alcano leads seeds to Sun Star s'finals

ANTONIO Gabica forges showdown with Dennis Orcollo.

CEBU CITY—Grain was separated from chaff yesterday as the seeded favorites all barged into the semifinals of the 4th Sun Star Superbalita 9-Ball Challenge at the SM Supermall here.

Antonio "Gaga" Gabica and Dennis Orcollo, winners in 2002 and 2003, respectively, make up the first semifinals pairing while Ronnie Alcano clinched his slot against Lee Van Corteza with ease.

Alcano is fresh off a victory in the Manila leg of the 2005 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour.

Gabica went through the eye of the needle before surviving Jimmy Adonia, 11-10, in the last 16 and then advanced to the semifinals with an easy 11-3 whipping of Francis Villarasa in the event co-presented by Touch Mobile and backed by Outlast Battery and Café Puro.

Gabica sweated profusely after leveling the match at 10-all against Villarasa but gave the table back to his foe after a bungled safety left the 1-ball open.

Villarasa pocketed the 1-ball but gave it all up to Gabica in the next play when he bounced the 2-ball free.

"I thought I'd already lost," said Gabica in Filipino. "Good thing he missed."

The tall, wiry Alcano flaunted his newfound confidence to defeat Cebu's pride, Warren Kiamco, 11-6, in the last eight of the tournament co-presented by Touch Mobile and backed by Outlast Battery and Café Puro.

On the way to their showdown, Kiamco beat Leonardo Didal, 11-8, while Alcano downed Israel Rota, also 11-8.

Corteza advanced to the next round by whipping Panfilo Damuag Jr., 11-7, in the last 16 and Ricky Zerna, 11-3, in the quarterfinals.

Alcano and the other semifinalists are also seeing action in the international side event of the tournament in which former world champion Mika Immonen of Finland and former European titlist Marcus Chamat are entered.

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SPORTS

Gran Copa back at SLLP today

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

EMPIRE King shoots for a third straight win under veteran jockey Antonio Alcasid Jr. when the 2005 Gran Copa de Manila Stakes race fires off today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Last year's best galloper will carry the top impost weight of 57 kilos in the Division I race, but experts predict Alcasid's mount will have no problem handling the load.

"*Huwag lang magbago ang magandang kundisyon niya, palagay ko lamang siya sa laban* (As long as his top condition stays, I believe he has the edge)," said the 41-year-old Alcasid, who was triumphant aboard the 4-year-old chestnut colt in the Marho Founders' Cup and Binay Cup recently.

Challenging Empire King in the 1,750-meter contest are West Bound, Cool Runnings and Free Wind.

While this will be the heaviest handicap for Empire King in a major race, the trip could be trouble-free considering the absence of a tough rival, in the mold of Cover Girl, in the lean field.

"*Tingin ko kaya niya ang timbang* (I think he can handle the weight)," added Alcasid, confident of the capability of the son of Perfect Halo.

West Bound appears to be the biggest obstacle for Empire King, but there's also a strong possibility of a challenge from Cool Runnings.

The 4-year-old bay filly, named after a movie about an underdog Jamaican bobsled team which took part in the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics, shook local racing recently when she shamed top Triple Crown bet and Cojuangco Cup titlist Speed Advantage in the Class Division.

Cool Runnings, owned by former racing commissioner Francis Trillana and his son, Michael, is on a 4-race winning romp. She will be handled by star jockey Fernando Raquel Jr., who engineered three of her previous four wins.

On the other hand, West Bound has yet to return to the winner's enclosure since ruling the Classic Open in December last year.

Free Wind, meanwhile, is still trying to regain the old kick that netted him the 2004 Freedom Cup and 2002 Presidential Gold Cup.

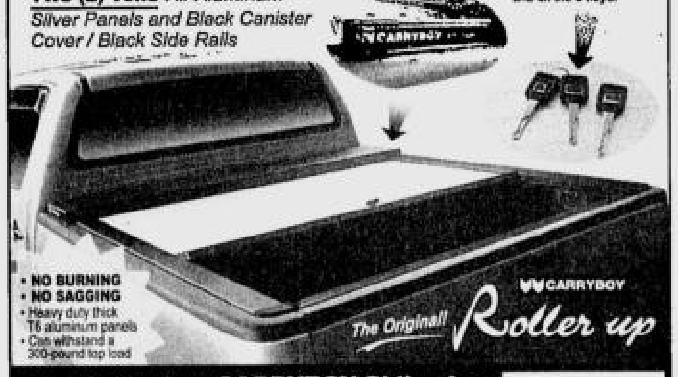
Also to be disputed today is the Division II championship featuring New Zealand import Flying Princess, known stayer Surprise Target and Hermie Esguerra's coupled runners Suppressed and Last Snip. Likewise in the roster are Glamour, Hazmagic, Sir Brendan Jean and Speed O' War.

The Gran Copa, held to commemorate "Araw ng Maynila," is making a comeback after its absence last year. Hazmoore and Absolute Charmer were the big winners in the 2003 staging.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Jaw Breaker 2. Morning Glory 3. Sir Benjo 4. Daddy's Girl
Race 2—1. Kiss Me Quick 2. Pasirit 3. Premiere Event 4. Heart of Jonna
Race 3—1. Tres Jeune 2. Pine Needles 3. Successful Dream
Race 4—1. Casanova 2. Cara Dura 3. Material Ruler 4. Xtreme Heat
Race 5—1. Suppressed/Last Snip 2. Flying Princess 3. Surprise Target 4. Glamour
Race 6—1. Mrs. Big 2. Master Ijhay 3. High Pocket 4. Rhyme and A Prayer
Race 7—1. Empire King 2. Cool Runnings
Race 8—1. Reigns Supreme 2. Vitality 3. Gorgeous Sand 4. Man Power
Race 9—1. Wedding Vows 2. Batangas Force 3. Guad/Maria Makiling
Race 10—1. Demolition Jack 2. Worth Ur While 3. Tini Bambini 4. Lord Brian
Race 11—1. Western Dancer 2. Valid Hazm 3. Deity
Race 12—1. Stradivarius 2. Open Sky 3. Princess Sophia 4. Silver Dollar
Race 13—1. Winter's Fury 2. Dream Cross 3. Ebony Dane 4. Gemstone 5. Worthy Princess 6. Sharon's Cookie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7 ex-world champs headline RP Int'l Open 9-Ball tourney

BILLIARDS godfather Aristeo "Putch" Puyat of Puyat Sports believes the next world champion will come from the main draw of the Philippine International Open 9-Ball Championship which starts tomorrow at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall.

"We have a very competitive field in this tournament. From this event will come the World Pool champion next month," he said.

No less than seven former world pool titlists will try to make him a prophet.

They are Filipinos Efren "Bata" Reyes and last year's winner, Alex Pagulayan, Mika Immonen of Finland, Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, Chao Fong-pang of Taiwan, Johnny Archer of the United States and Japan's Kunihiko Takahashi.

PAGULAYAN

IMMONEN

"*Halos lahat ng paborito sa* World Pool *nandito* (All the world pool favorites are competing here)," Puyat noted.

The World Pool Championship will be held in Kaoshiung, Taiwan, next month. The rest of the seeded players in the RP tournament are Filipino former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Americans Gabe Owen, Corey Deuel, Rodney Morris and Charlie Williams, European pool stars Neils Feijen, Tony Drago, Marcus Chamat and Thomas Engert, Taiwanese big guns Yang Ching-shun and Wu Chia-ching, Japanese ace Satoshi Kawabata and Korean Jeong Young Hwa.

Even the players in the two-day qualifying round are no pushovers.

Marlon Manalo, a recent winner in the US circuit, leads the cast of players in the double elimination qualifier.

Action in the five-day event will be aired live on Solar Sports from 2 p.m.

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Janiola loses IBF title shot

FOR DEFYING a pre-fight rule, Filipino Wyndel Janiola lost his mandatory shot at reigning International Boxing Federation junior flyweight champion Will Grigsby of the United States this year.

The New Jersey-based IBF, through championship chair Lindsey Tucker, informed Janiola's handlers that the Filipino fighter has been ruled out as a future Grigsby opponent for seeing action in an Independence Day card last June 12.

The IBF ban on Janiola was imposed to avoid putting the negotiations for the Filipino's clash with Grigsby, who is promoted by Don King, in peril.

It was not known why Janiola ignored the IBF condition and went on to fight Ricky Escaner, who was technically knocked out in the second round.

Terry Carter, Janiola's backer, said he would ask the IBF to reconsider its decision before leaving for the US recently.

But it is unlikely the IBF will change its decision since it is very strict in implementing the rules. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

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June 24 (Friday)

11:00 - 12:00	Business Opportunity - Susie's Natural Body Essentials
12:00 - 1:00	Business Opportunity - Sam's Everything On Stick
1:00 - 2:00	Personal Investment Strategy - Prof. Fernando Galte Jr. Director, Q.C. Chamber of Commerce
2:00 - 3:00	How to Start a Small Business - TLRC
3:00 - 5:00	Maintaining Cash Flow Records - Insol Development Foundation
5:00 - 7:00	Account Management - Businessmaker Academy

June 25 (Saturday)

11:00 - 1:00	Cash Flow Management - Insol Development Foundation
1:00 - 2:00	Starting Fruit Trees Business - TLRC
2:00 - 3:30	SMART Entrepreneurial Program - SMART Telecommunications
3:30 - 5:30	Meat Processing Business Seminar - Ultima Entrepinoy
5:30 - 7:30	Starting a Food Cart Business - Businessmaker Academy
7:30 - 9:00	Business Opportunity - Mini Stop Convenience Store

June 26 (Sunday)

11:00 - 1:00	Market Analysis for SME - Insol Development Foundation
1:00 - 3:00	Flavored Juice-Making with Demo - TLRC
3:00 - 5:00	Meat Processing Business Seminar - Ultima Entrepinoy
5:00 - 7:00	Entrepreneurship Marketing - Businessmaker Academy

June 27 (Monday)

11:00 - 1:00	Product Relevance in Identified Market - Insol Development Foundation
1:00 - 3:00	Beaded Accessories-Making with Demo - TLRC
3:00 - 5:00	Candies and Mamalade-Making - Ultima Entrepinoy
5:00 - 7:00	Sales Probing and Negotiation - Businessmaker Academy

June 28 (Tuesday)

11:00 - 1:00	Simple Product Costing / Pricing - Insol Development Foundation
1:00 - 3:00	Pastillas-Making with Demo - TLRC
3:00 - 4:00	Franchising - Businessmaker Academy
4:00 - 5:00	Barangay Micro Business Enterprise Law - DTI
5:00 - 7:00	How to Be a Successful Entrepreneur - DTI

June 29 (Wednesday)

11:00 - 1:00	Identifying Entrepreneurial Qualities - Insol Development Foundation
1:00 - 3:00	How to Start a Small Business - TLRC
3:00 - 5:00	Chocolate Moulding Seminar - Ultima Entrepinoy
5:00 - 7:00	Life Balance & Time Management - Businessmaker Academy

June 30 (Thursday)

11:00 - 1:00	Meat Processing Business Seminar - Ultima Entrepinoy
1:00 - 3:00	Business Opportunity - MARDIZ
3:00 - 5:00	Balloon Décor-Making Business with Demo - TLRC
5:00 - 7:00	Creative Wedding Planning - Businessmaker Academy
7:00 - 8:00	Business Opportunity - IGEN Portal

July 1 (Friday)

11:00 - 12:00	Personal Investment Strategy - Prof. Fernando Galte Jr. Director, Q.C. Chamber of Commerce
12:00 - 1:00	Business Opportunity - ATT Group of Companies
1:00 - 3:00	Simple Product Costing / Pricing - Insol Development Foundation
3:00 - 5:00	Swedish Massage with Demo - TLRC
5:00 - 7:00	Money Management & Investing - Businessmaker Academy

July 2 (Saturday)

11:00 - 12:00	Business Opportunity - ROP Potato Cuddler
12:00 - 1:00	Business Opportunity - ATT Group of Companies
1:00 - 2:30	SMART Entrepreneurial Program - SMART Telecommunications
2:30 - 4:30	Meat Processing Business Seminar - Ultima Entrepinoy
4:30 - 6:30	Events Planning - Businessmaker Academy
6:30 - 8:00	Market Analysis for SME - Insol Development Foundation

July 3 (Sunday)

11:00 - 12:00	Business Opportunity - FORMOR Phil. Inc.
12:00 - 1:00	Business Opportunity - ROP Potato Cuddler
1:00 - 3:00	Meat Processing Business Seminar - Ultima Entrepinoy
3:00 - 5:00	Personal Image Development - Businessmaker Academy
5:00 - 6:00	Business Opportunity - FORMOR Phil. Inc.
6:00 - 7:00	Flavored Juice-Making with Demo - TLRC

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THE MILO Marathon's green brigade hits the road again starting in General Santos City.

Milo marathon elims kick off in Gen. Santos Sunday

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The country's "tuna capital" gets to show its sporting side anew when the first leg of the 29th National Milo Marathon fires off this Sunday at the city oval plaza here.

Defending champions Hernane Sore and Monaliza Ambasa, both from South Cotabato, are expected to defend their crowns against a field of crack runners from Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, Kidapawan, Glan, South Cotabato, Polomolok, Midsayap, Kabacan and Cotabato City.

Expected to challenge Sore and Ambasa are Placido Disza, Jimmy Sabal, Rene Solitario, Mario Dabon, Marites Tinio and Maricris Toling.

The top three male and female finishers in the 21-K race will get an all-expense paid trip to Metro Manila to compete in the 29th Milo Marathon national finals on Oct. 9.

Mayor Pedro Acharon, Vice Mayor Florentina Congson and other city officials will grace the awarding rites. City administrator Clement Acencio, meanwhile, will fire the starting gun at 6 a.m.

Acharon said he is grateful to Nestlé Philippines for making his city the kick-off leg of the country's biggest and longest-running foot race.

More than 5,000 runners have already signed up for the 3-K kiddie run, the 5-K fun run, and the 21-K regional race of this 14-legged event held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Power Bar.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- LA critics laud 2 Fil-Am filmmakers /A2-2
- 'Sakada' takes a bow on TV /A3-1
- John Lloyd's birthday wish /A3-2

By Nini Valera

Director says she is a very intense actress

WHEN newcomer Melissa Ricks was dropped from the cast of the "Panday" remake to be serialized on ABS-CBN, the production staff scrounged around for a new leading lady who could hold her own against Jericho Rosales, who plays the title role.

They found that person in Heart Evangelista, who is now set to play Eden, the Panday's wife.

"I am honored to play this role, to be Echo's leading lady," Heart said in a press conference announcing the news last week. "This is going to be a different me. Jump off a cliff? I would do it."

Heart was picked after hundreds of young actresses auditioned but failed to meet the demands of the character. (Kristine Hermosa was reportedly interested.)

"Heart did not audition," 'Panday' production manager Anna Goma told INQUIRER Entertainment, "but we thought of doing a video of her just the same."

The crackling chemistry between Heart and Jericho in the video was undeniable. The producers knew they had finally found their girl.

"She's a very intense actress," was how director Toto Natividad put it. "With minimal instructions, she hits the nail on the head," he said in Filipino.

Too young

Melissa Ricks had begged off from the role, saying she felt too young to be playing Panday's wife. She is 16.

"In fairness to her, she was the one who asked to be taken out," said Goma. "She apparently knew that it was not working out."

Melissa had already shot for seven days, but the production staff felt a re-shoot was in order. The series is a television remake of the Carlo J. Caparas novel serialized in *komiks* in the '70's.

Vowed Direk Toto: "It's going to be worth the wait. We have spent two months in post production. The whole experience is very intense ... five times more than shooting a movie. I can't find the words to describe the experience."

For Heart, it's "like swallowing a bitter pill."

But she claimed she'd rather have fun than dwell on the pressure of work.

"I'm no longer 16," she explained. "I'm tired of (being cute) and waving to people and saying hi, hello. I want to do something more real. This is real."

The series—expected to being airing in August—is being shot in different locations around the Philippines.

"We will be going to Vigan, Laoag—where Fernando Poe Jr. shot [the 'Panday'] movies," said Jericho. "I just want to continue his legacy. 'Panday' is a true Pinoy product, and [now] a pioneering TV show. I think it will help the entertainment industry progress. Taking on FPJ's role is a matter of personal pride for me."

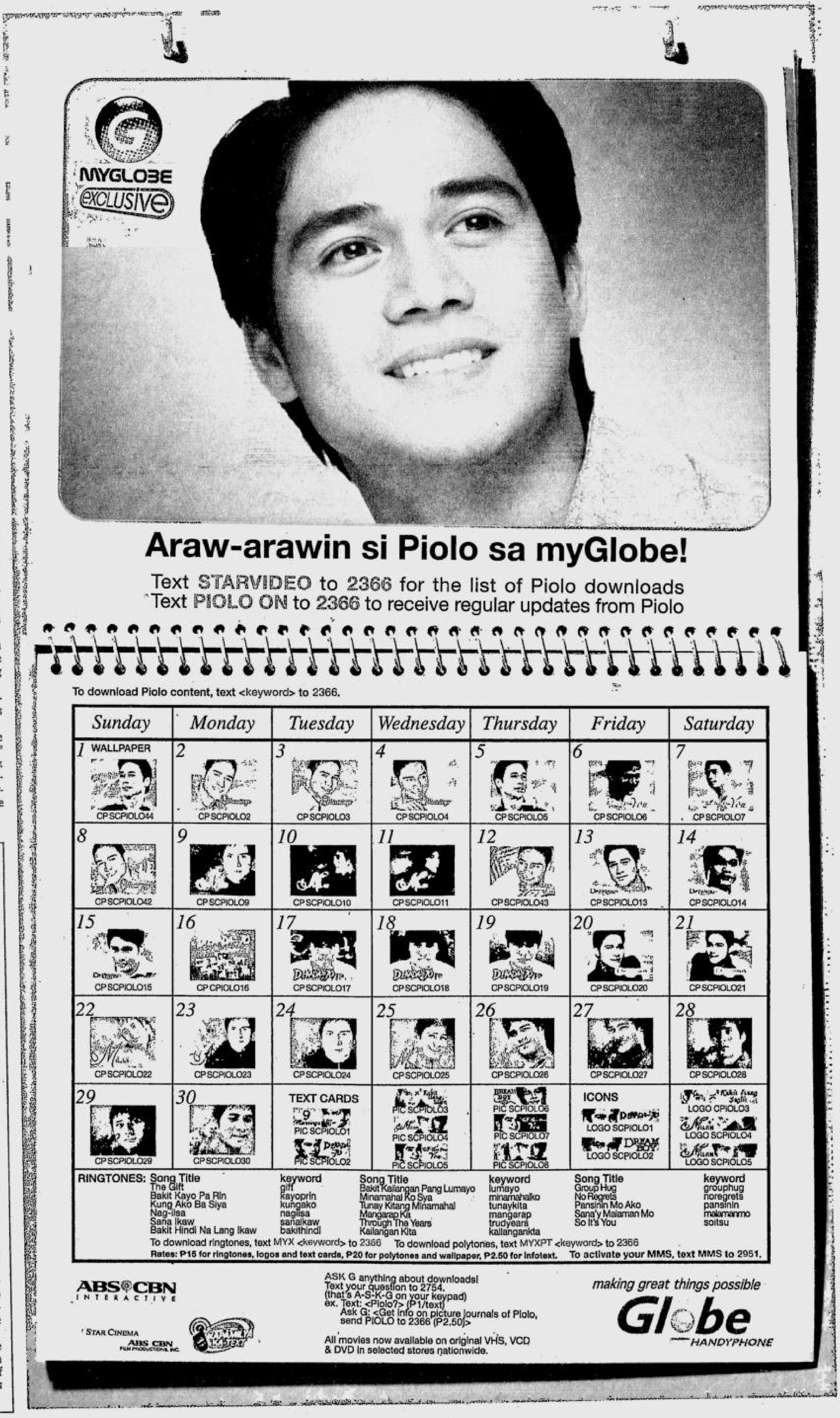
Didn't anyone see it coming?

LESS than three months ago, INQUIRER Entertainment was in Kristine Hermosa's closet, literally. We remember these gushing words for her husband (now it turns out) Diether Ocampo:

"Diet bought me two pairs of slippers—one white, another brown—during his recent trip to Australia. They're really special to me. I love everything that he gives me.

"I have four favorite bags. They're special because I care for the people who gave them to me. Two are from Diet. Every time he goes abroad, he buys me stuff.

"This Calvin Klein chrono has got to be my biggest watch. I wasn't interested in big sports watches before. This is, of course, another one of Diet's ideas. It has become my favorite watch."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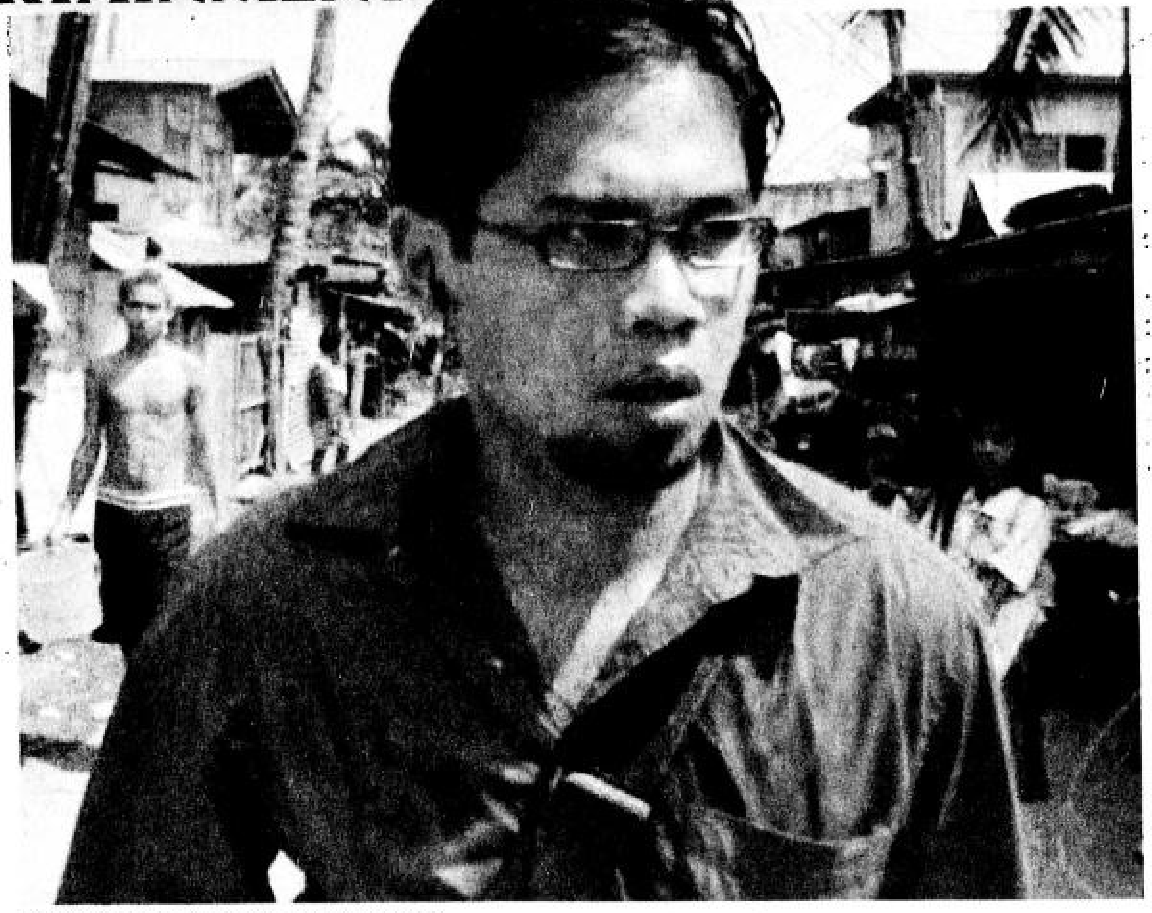
'Cavite' film reaps praise in LA Film Fest

LOS ANGELES—Two Filipino-American filmmakers who have been financing their films with credit cards and were at one point discussing "how pitiful our lives were for being failures in filmmaking" woke up Thursday morning last week to read that their fourth project, "Cavite," got a crucial favorable review from the Los Angeles Times.

Two Fil-Am filmmakers who financed their projects with credit cards—and were resigned to being 'failures' —are lauded by US critics


IAN Gamazon: "Captivating performance"

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

In a story headlined "Intrigue in the Philippines" and sub-headed "'Cavite,' part of LA Film Fest, is a button-pushing thriller," LA Times' Kevin Crust praised the latest handiwork of co-directors Ian Gamazon (who also stars) and Neill Dela Llana. Crust wrote:

"'Cavite' opens like a typical low-budget digital-video slacker drama before quickly transforming into an intimate political thriller set in the Philippines. Gamazon gives a captivating performance as Adam, an unhappy Filipino American with a job as a security guard on the San Diego waterfront, and is on-screen for nearly every shot.

"Adam returns to the islands for what we eventually learn is his father's funeral. An envelope he receives at the Manila airport contains a ringing cell phone and some grisly photos, and he soon finds himself embroiled in intrigue, kidnapping and murder.

"Gamazon and Dela Llana use the hardscrabble guerrilla filmmaking to their advantage in carving out a smart film that explores Adam's hard-boiled cultural rebirth as he journeys through the back alleys and dusty villages in this crisply edited suspense story. The resourceful filmmakers also manage to keep what could easily have been a gimmick—a script in which 90 percent of the dialogue is phone conversations—fresh and compelling to the end."

Another LA Times film critic, Carina Chocano, in her coverage of the film fest, where "Cavite" is in the running in the narrative competition, also singled out "Cavite" from among the outstanding entries. Chocano wrote:

"One of the nice things about a festival like this one is that the word independent gets to mean what it really means. The scrappiest do-it-yourselfers have the best stories. 'Cavite,' a no-budget thriller shot on location in the Philippines, is actually co-writer/directors Ian Gamazon and Neill Dela Llana's fourth film. You haven't seen the first three because they're sitting in their closets.

"The production was so bare-bones that the two [Ian and Neill] were often mistaken for a news crew doing reportage on the squatter camps, but the movie plays like a thriller many times its size."

Following are excerpts of our interview with Ian and Neill, who both admire filmmaker Quentin Tarantino and actress Winona Ryder.

How surprised were you to wake up one morning last week and read a very favorable review of "Cavite" in the LA Times?

Ian (I): That was just amazing. Hopefully that will help in letting distributors know that there's an audience for this film.

"THE MOVIE plays like a thriller many times its size."

Neill (N): We've been getting a lot of great reviews from all the festivals we've been to. This really just tops it.

How long have you known each other? Were you born in the Philippines? Were you exposed to Filipino films?

I: Since high school. We've been making films ever since. This is our fourth feature film. The first one I directed which had a Filipino cast was called "Diego Stories." It went to New York Asian Film Festival in 1996. But it started and died there.

N: Then I did the next film called "The Book." The lead was a Filipino character and it never went to any festivals. Both our first films were like film schools to us. We learned so much from those experiences.

I: The next film I directed was called "Freud's 2nd Law." It had great success at film festivals but it never got any further than that.

N: So Ian and I decided to collaborate for this film. This is probably the most successful we've made in 10 years.

I: Has it been that long? I was born in Manila and came to the States when I was 9 years old. I'm 31 now and we just can't seem to quit making films.

FRENCH-AMERICAN hunk Michael Vartan

N: It's in our blood, I guess. I'm also 31 and came here when I was very young.

I: We were never really exposed to Filipino films. When we have more money, we'll hunt down those films on the 'net and just soak everything in all at once.

How did you come up with the story of "Cavite"? Why Cavite, specifically? Also, the LA Times critic cited that "90 percent of the dialogue is phone conversation." Was that inspired by the two of you burning up the cell phone lines between LA and San Diego (where Neill lives)?

N: Yeah ... the two of us talking on our cell phones, contemplating why our films failed. One day I asked Ian, what if he got kidnapped and I couldn't do anything about it?

I: Neill's relatives live in Cavite. That made everything easier for us to shoot there.

How long did it take you to film in the Philippines?

N: Ten days. The whole production was both memorable and challenging.

I: Yeah, everything about the Philippines was interesting to me since I hadn't been there since I was 9. I loved it. We're both very inspired to make more films there.

What's next as far as the film is concerned?

I: We're going to Melbourne Film Festival in July and basically every month after that we'll be attending a festival.

What do you plan to do next?

N: I've got a few ideas that take place in the Philippines. We can't say anything at this moment.

I: Same here. But we can tell you this. We'd love to do an epic movie that takes place in the Philippines. For now we need to really establish ourselves as filmmakers and we have to go from there.

Are you still both "obsessed" with Winona Ryder?

I: Yes.

N: No.

I: I ran into her at Banana Republic one day. She said, "Excuse me." That was definitely one of the highlights of my adult life.

Are you still fans of Tarantino? Have you met him in person? Ian, what was that like, playing all of the characters in "Reservoir Dogs" in Neill's short film in college, "My Hero, Tarantino"? Neil, do you still watch your early films?

I: Yeah, we're still fans and no, we haven't met him in person. "My Hero" was a really lame short film that we made, but it was fun.

N: I haven't watched any of my works in years. They're all buried in my closet.

Ian, are you still working at Banana Republic?

I: No comment. OK, yes.

Neill, your name is all over the credits except in the cast. Do you harbor a secret desire to also act?

N: OK, you got me. I'm waiting for the time when Ian can cast me as the lead in his film.

Ian: One day.

Small world, Hollywood

Hollywood seems such a small town if you keep track of the constant pairings and unpairings. Take this one, for example: When "Alias" TV series stars Michael Vartan and Jennifer Garner became an un-couple, she went on to become engaged to Ben Affleck, who broke up with Jennifer Lopez, who is the love interest of Michael in the hit comedy, "Monster-in-Law."

Despite their break-up, Jennifer (Garner, not Lopez) and Michael continued working together on "Alias." In a recent hotel interview, Michael said to me: "Jennifer and I are friends first and foremost, always have been and always will be. When there is that base of friendship between two people, they can behave in a professional manner toward each other no matter what happens. But I'd be lying if I say that there weren't a few uncomfortable moments in the beginning. I'm 36. I'm not going to tell you how old she is, but I'm an adult. Things happen in life. I'm lucky enough to have a great friend in her."

According to this humble French-American hunk, who is the subject of a tug-of-war between J Lo and Jane Fonda (all these women with names that start with J!), not in real life but in "Monster-in-Law," he is shy about approaching women.

"I'm terrible," he told me. "I really don't know how to talk to women very well. I've never been good at it. I've never been a ladies' man in terms of knowing how to talk to them or saying the right thing. I've always had a hard time. If you meet or you see someone that you really like, what are you going to say, 'Do you come here often?' I found that the best approach is to just say, 'Hi, my name is Michael.' Then you can tell right away by a woman's body language if she is interested."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)

WITH co-stars Jane Fonda and Jennifer Lopez in "Monster-in-Law."

Mega sings Ogie

SPIN CITY

SHARON Cuneta is back home to promote her latest album, "Sharon Sings Alcasid."

The new CD is a collection of singer-songwriter Ogie Alcacid's well-loved songs. Ogie handpicked Sharon for the project.

The songs are: "Sa Kanya," "Sana," "Ikaw Ang Pag-ibig," "Hanggang Ngayon," Nandito Ako," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," "Ikaw Sana," "Pangarap Kong Ibigin Ka," "Kung Mawawala Ka," "Dito Sa Puso Ko," "Mahal Kita Walang Iba," "Tanging Ikaw Lamang," "Pangako" and the duet version (with Ogie) of "Nandito Ako."

"My new CD was made with a lot of love," Sharon said. "I love Ogie, I love his songs. We have gotten very good feedback."

Ogie was a guest in Sharon's recent concert tour in the United States. Of her most recent experience abroad, the singer said, "I was happy for the privilege of entertaining many of our *kababayans* in every city [we went to]. I was blessed with a few standing ovations. But I was beset with colds, cough and jet lag, but by God's grace I came through!"

The whole tour was memorable, she stressed. "The audiences were nothing short of fantastic. They were very warm and loving."

SHARON Cuneta

TORI Amos

Tori Amos is 'The Beekeeper'

IT HAS been over two years since Tori Amos brought new songs to her dedicated fans. She recently unveiled two exciting projects—a new CD titled "The Beekeeper," and her first book "Tori Amos: Piece by Piece," co-written with journalist Ann Powers.

The critically acclaimed collection of songs, "The Beekeeper," is recorded and self-produced in her UK studio Martian Engineering. On songs like "Sweet the Sting," "Sleeps with Butterflies," and "Ribbons Undone," Tori incorporates vintage organs, Afro-Cuban drums and gospel choirs. And she works once again with longtime partners, drummer Matt Chamberlain and bassist Jon Evans.

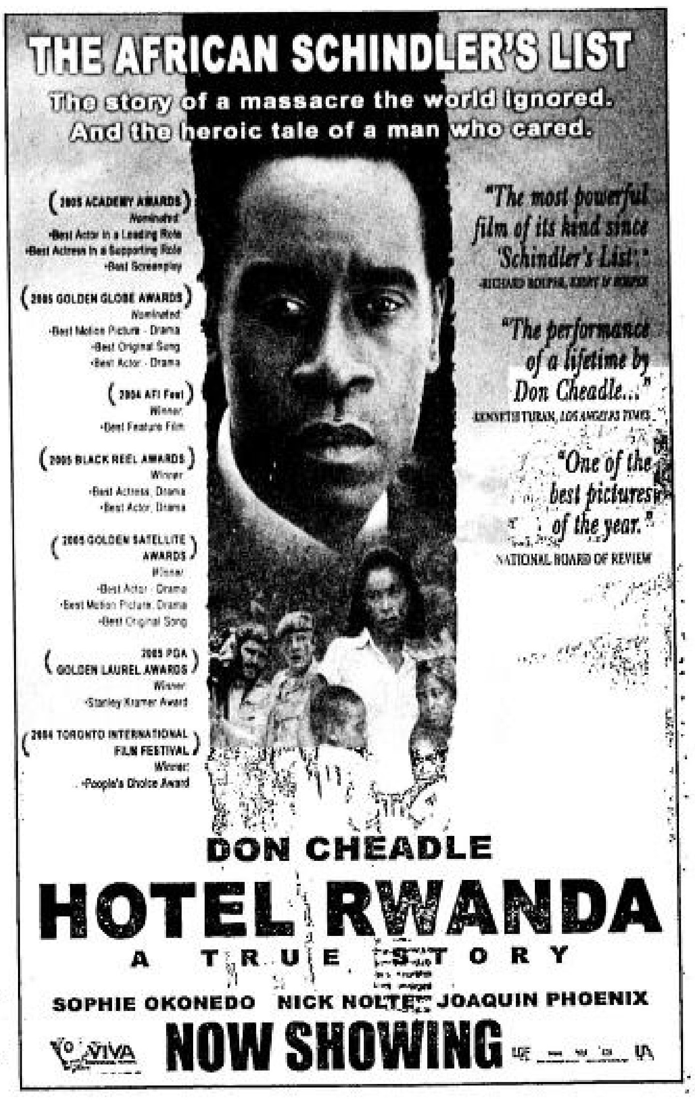
"I don't usually talk about what the songs are about, because they're about many, many things," Tori says.

But with "The Beekeeper," her ninth album, she has changed the rules. "The storm is on the horizon," says Tori. "It's coming, this massive force. It can be emotional or physical—or all those things."

"The Beekeeper" is an allegory about that coming storm, and one woman's journey through it. It's not autobiography, although Tori admits, "If I didn't relate to it in some ways, I wouldn't be able to sing it."

With worldwide record sales topping 12 million and multiple Grammy nominations, Tori—one of the most respected artists of our time—is also one of the most intriguing.

"The Beekeeper" is available in CDs at all record stores nationwide from Sony-BMG.



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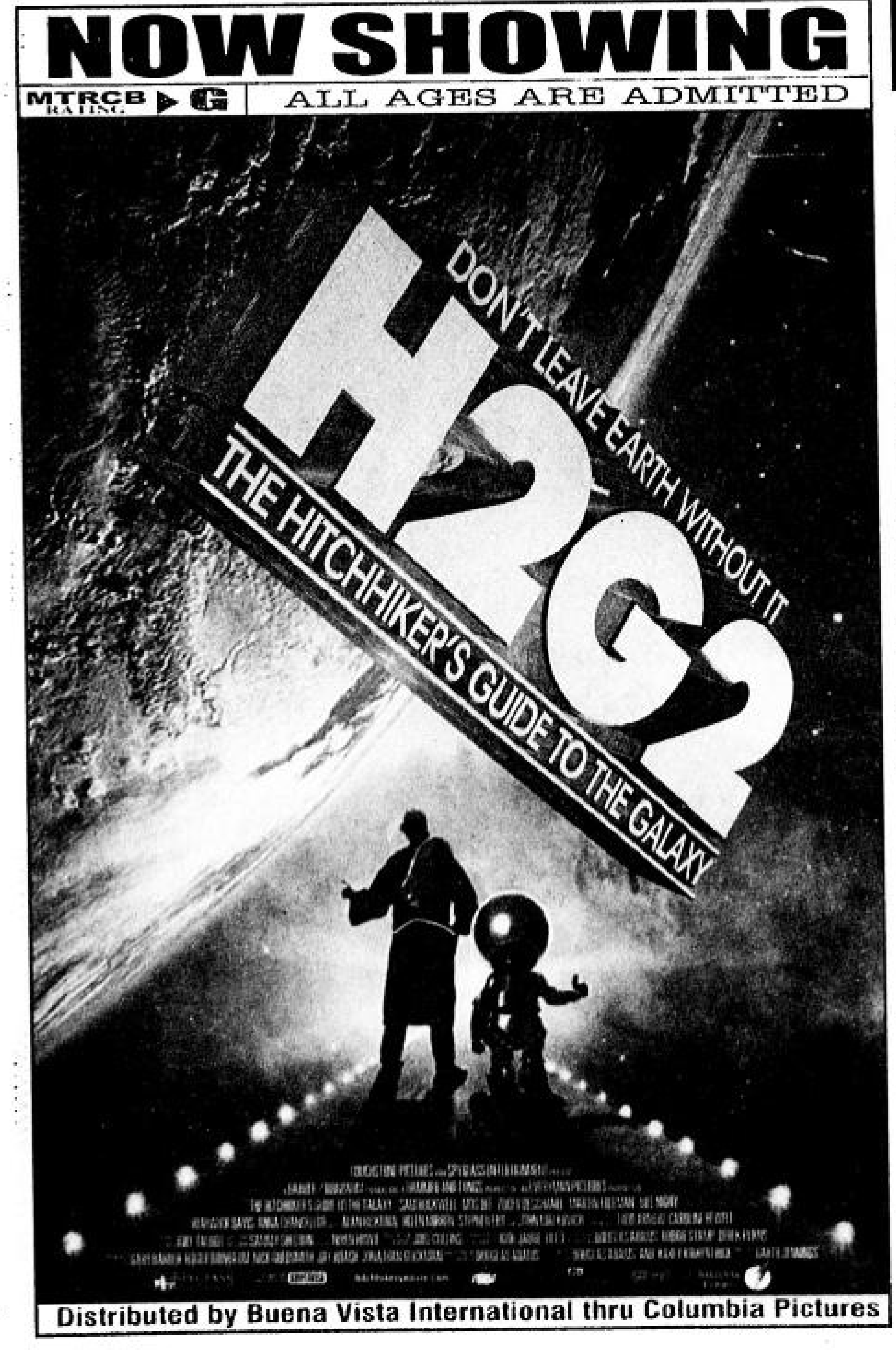

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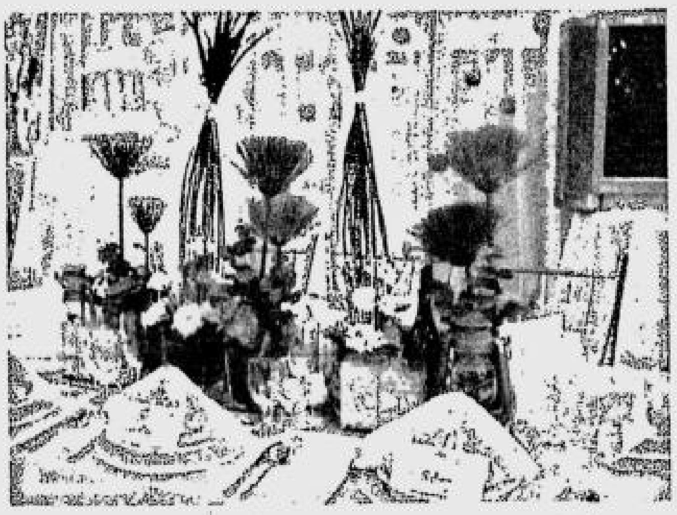

Romantic June at City Garden Hotel Makati

AS A FITTING celebration for being awarded the ISO 9001:2000 certificate, City Garden Hotel Makati is offering special promotions for families, couples, and parties this month of June. Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as P59,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenirs, floral arrangements, and other amenities. Thus, providing value for money and hassle-free arrangements. Reception venues may be held at its cozy, fully -equipped function rooms or at the al fresco Roofdeck, with a wonderful view of the metropolis.

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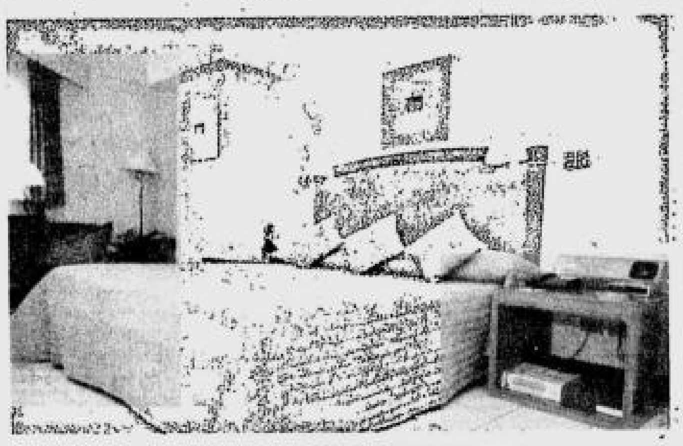

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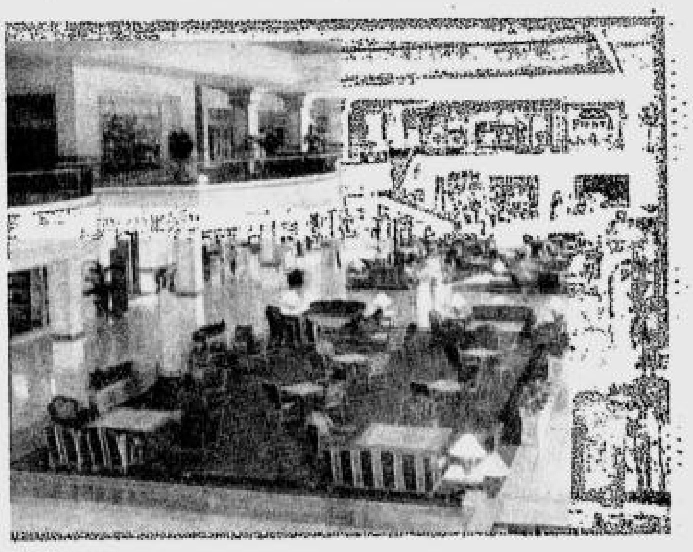


Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino introduces the Gourmet Passport

WATERFRONT Cebu City Hotel and Casino (WCCHC) announces its newest privilege perk to all frequent diners - the Gourmet Passport. Definitely good news to all loyal patrons and those who want to experience the hotel's great culinary offerings. This is something you'll never want to miss out on. With the Gourmet Passport, guests not only enjoy the delectable dishes of the hotel's wide range of restaurants, they also get to earn an overnight stay in the hotel for free. Enjoy Italian dishes at La Gondola, indulge in Tin Gow's Chinese culinary creations, unwind at Mizu with their array of Japanese dishes or at any of the other hotel restaurant outlets including Café Uno, Café Fortuna, Madeleine, Lobby Lounge, and Treff Bar. Starting June 9, guests can ask for a Gourmet Passport at the Gourmet Walk entrance's Stairwell 27. For every P1,500 food and beverage purchase at any of the outlets, except for Madeleine - which can be based on two accumulated food and beverage purchases, the bearer is entitled to a stamp on their passport. Only one stamp per outlet is allowed. Upon accumulation of 6 stamps from 6 different outlets, the passport holder is entitled to an overnight stay in a Standard or Superior room. But if guests would prefer a stay in a Deluxe Suite, simply accumulate 8 stamps and you're set to go. So head right on to WCCHC's Gourmet Walk and get to experience the luxury of the hotel while spoiling your palates to the extreme.

PANCHO Magalona, Joseph Sytangco and Gloria Romero in Behn Cervantes' film

'Sakada' debuts on TV tomorrow

Three decades later, the controversial film gets a second lease on life

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TAKE FIVE

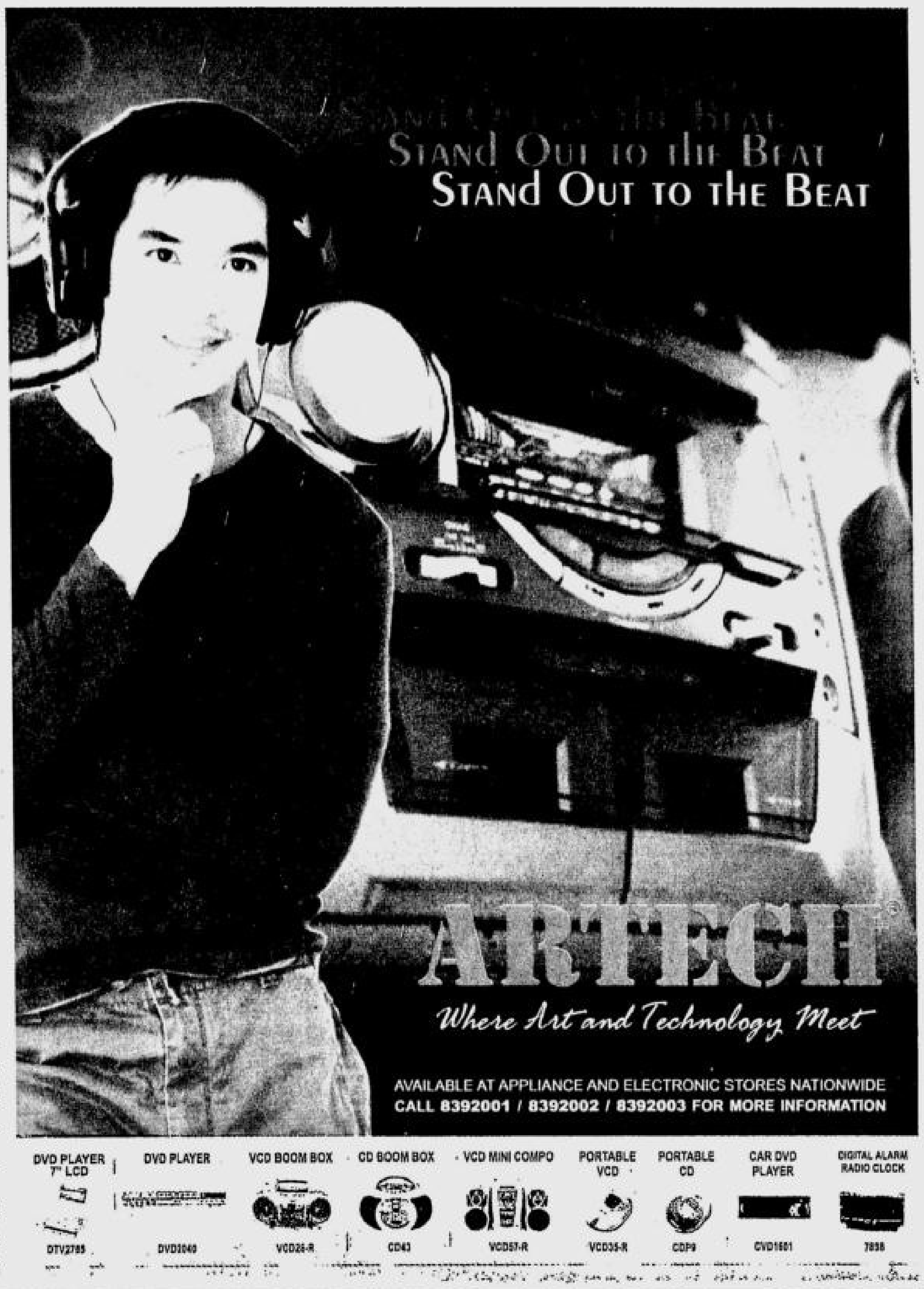
TAKING a belated bow on Philippine television is cultural activist and stage director Behn Cervantes' debut movie "Sakada"—a searing drama on the suffering of migrant farm workers in the hands of *hacenderos* (landed gentry).

Seized by the military when it was first released during the Marcos regime in 1976, the film was believed to have been lost, until a copy resurfaced at the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) in the mid-1990s.

This copy will be aired on "ABCinema" tomorrow, 10:30 p.m.

A pet project of network big boss Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco,

'SAKADA'/ A2-2



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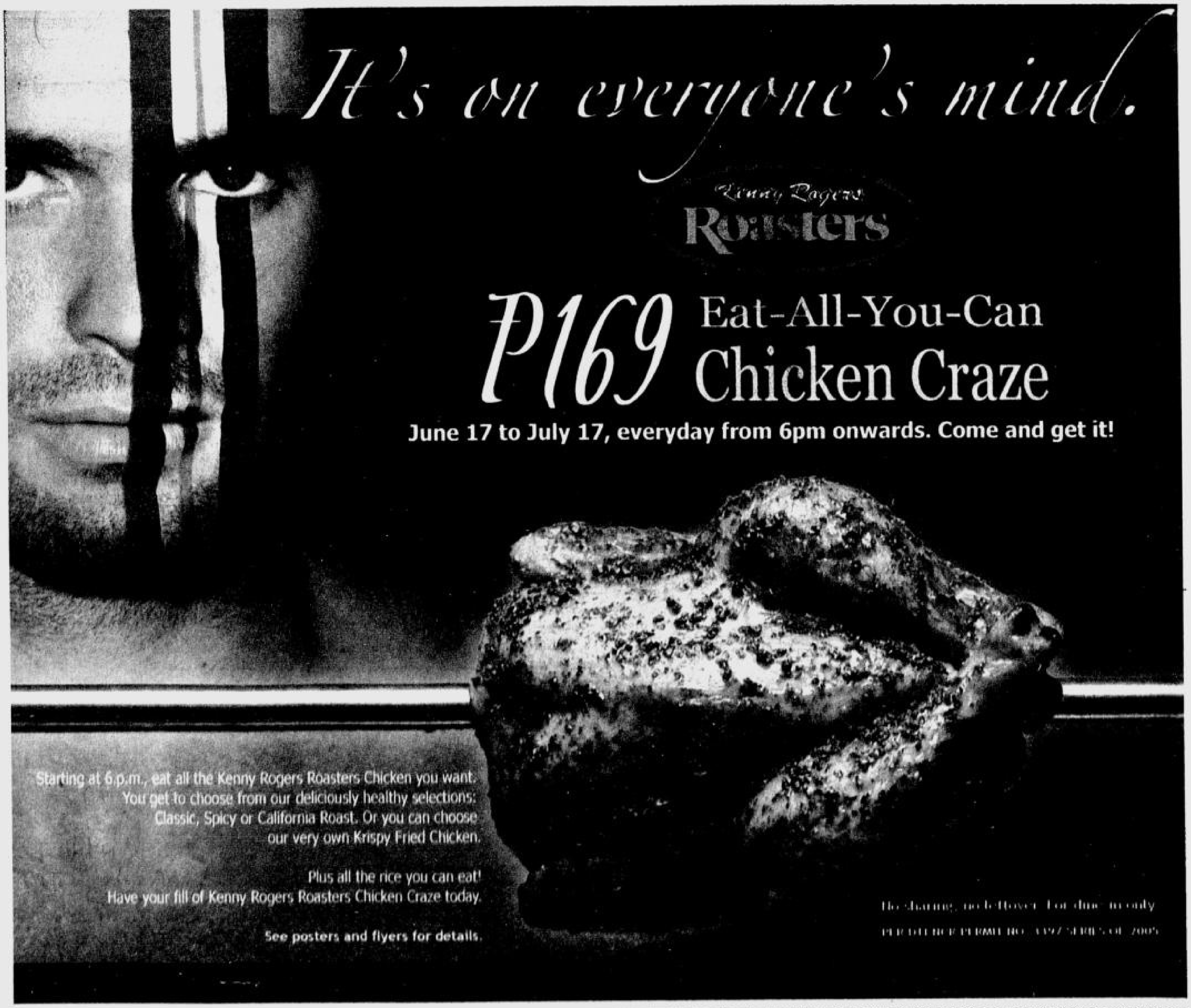

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The conflicted John Lloyd Cruz

By Nini Valera

JOHN Lloyd Cruz maxed out his three credit cards shopping in Dubai last month, where he shot scenes of his latest movie with Claudine Barretto and Aga Muhlach.

But last Monday, his 22nd birthday, John Lloyd was a different person, talking about wanting to help other people.

Asked what his birthday wish was, he jested, "This answer is so very much like Miss Universe." Then he turned serious. "Aside from world peace, I want to do something [for humanity]. It's not a wish, it's a goal. I want to help as many people as I can, though I'm still figuring out how."

He said there was a time when he wanted to stop being an actor.

"I thought I wouldn't last," he explained. "But along the way, one finds purpose. How can I help others if I don't have a source of income? Sometimes I ask myself if I deserve being in the movies, if I want it. There was a point when I wanted to plan my life, I wanted for it to be normal, so I could keep regular hours, be home on time, watch my kids grow—a typical life, even if I didn't get rich."

John Lloyd continued: "I told myself that if I grew old as an actor, I might not be able to achieve that. Actors here can't plan their life. I couldn't still be a matinee idol at 40. So at times I also felt I should stop doing glam roles. I'd like to explore the dark side [of human nature], but I know I can't do that as a matinee idol. That's my conflict."

Then he decided that, for as long as his goal was clear, things would fall into place.

"More than my job, more than my passion, it's a question of why I'm here. I can [hurdle] anything because of that purpose."

Sacred Sundays

To keep him grounded, John Lloyd keeps Sundays sacred. "I wake up at about noon and have lunch with my family," he said. "I like to see my family on a regular basis. Sundays give me this opportunity. I drive around, go to church, go to a mall... I work the entire week, so Sundays should be different. In a way, that's self preservation."

John Lloyd also wished for long life.

As far as he can remember, he had wanted to be a pilot when he was a kid.

"But I've been acting since I was 14, and acting has become my passion," he said. "Right now, I can't see what else I'd like to be other than an actor."

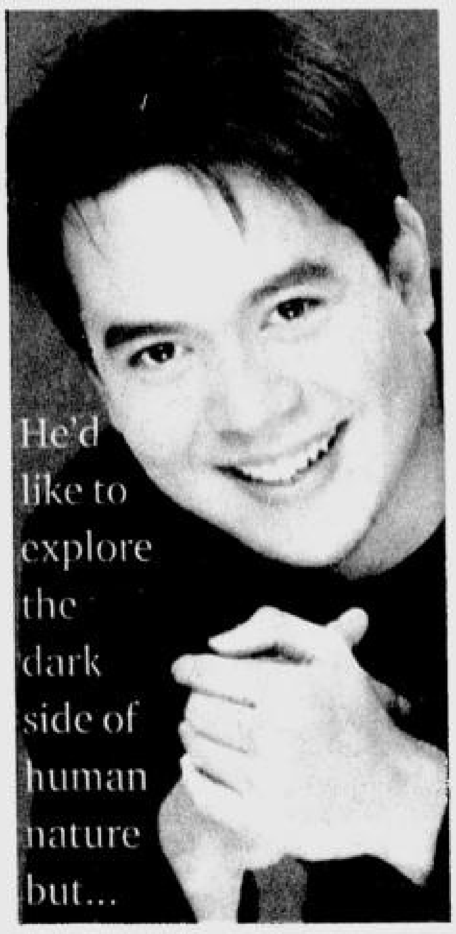
The profession has been good to him, supporting a lifestyle that involves shopping until he drops, he noted.

"It's probably a sickness," he said of his endless shopping sprees. "But I have been able to control it. All those clothes I bought in Dubai, they're just sitting in the house. I am embarrassed at how much I paid for them. My mother took away all my credit cards."

John Lloyd observed that shopping was a luxury for most Filipinos working abroad. In the movie "Dubai," he plays one of those workers, driving an illegal vehicle to eke out a living. About 30 percent of the film was shot in Dubai, John Lloyd said, at an enormous cost "because we paid for all the fees and permits."

Aga Muhlach's role in the movie directed by Rory Quintos is being revised, temporarily halting the shoot.

"We are avoiding creating a love triangle [Aga, Claudine and myself]," John Lloyd revealed. "People say I'm too young for such a triangle. I take that as a compliment. But I see myself as old."



He'd like to explore the dark side of human nature but...

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MOVIE GUIDE

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3 (DOLBY)	NASAAN KA MAN R13
4 (DOLBY)	MADAGASCAR GP
PREMIERE (DOLBY)	BATMAN BEGINS GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	BATMAN BEGINS
2 (SDDS)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 (DTS)	BATMAN BEGINS
4 GOLD (DTS)	BATMAN BEGINS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 GOLD (SDDS)	A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	NASAAN KAMAN
8 [illegible]	MADAGASCAR
9 [illegible]	SIN CITY
10 [illegible]	NASAAN KAMAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
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3 (DOLBY)	BATMAN BEGINS
4 (DOLBY)	NASAAN KA MAN

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	NASAAN KA MAN
2 (DTS)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 (DOLBY)	BATMAN BEGINS
4	A LOT LIKE LOVE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	NASAAN KAMAN
2 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 (DTS)	BATMAN BEGINS
4	A LOT LIKE LOVE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HOUSE OF WAX
2	NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DOLBY)	UNLEASHED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	A LOT LIKE LOVE
2	NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DOLBY)	BATMAN BEGINS
4 (DTS)	HOUSE OF WAX

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	BATMAN BEGINS
2	NASAAN KA MAN
3 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	BATMAN BEGINS
2	BATMAN BEGINS
3	NASAAN KA MAN
4	MR. & MRS. SMITH

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341924

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MARKETPLACE
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Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	NASAAN KA MAN
2	BATMAN BEGINS
3	MR. & MRS. SMITH

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BATMAN BEGINS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2	GRACIA
3	LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
4 (DTS)	SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BATMAN BEGINS
2	A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 (DTS)	NASAAN KA MAN
4	GRACIA
5	MR. & MRS. SMITH

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	NASAAN KAMAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	BATMAN BEGINS
5	MR. & MRS. SMITH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BATMAN BEGINS
2	NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DTS EX)	BATMAN BEGINS
4	A LOT LIKE LOVE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	NASAAN KA MAN
2	BATMAN BEGINS
3 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 (DTS)	BATMAN BEGINS

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	MADAGASCAR
2	HOUSE OF WAX
3 (DTS)	NASAAN KA MAN
4 (DOLBY)	BATMAN BEGINS

METROPOLIS star
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(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	KAKAIBANG KARISMA
2	MR. & MRS. SMITH
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	BATMAN BEGINS
6	NASAAN KA MAN

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	NASAAN KA MAN
2	UNLEASHED
3 (DOLBY)	HOUSE OF WAX
4 (DTS)	STARWARS: EPISODE-3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BATMAN BEGINS
2	MR. & MRS. SMITH
3	A LOT LIKE LOVE
4	NASAAN KA MAN

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	SIN CITY
2	RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	SILANG MGA RAMPADORA
2	NASAAN KA MAN

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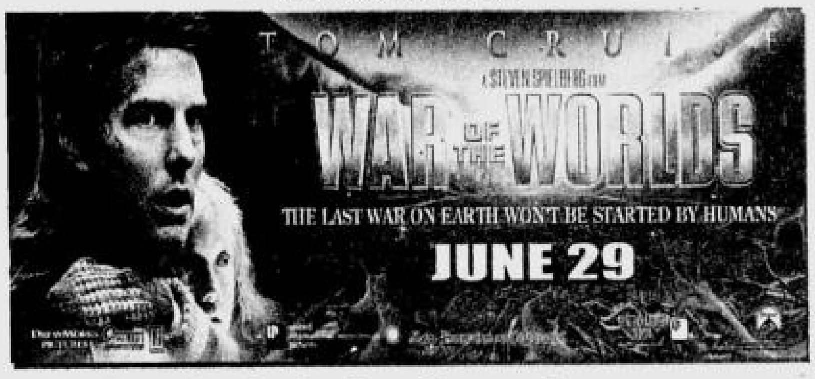

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Araneta Center Leisure Guide...

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HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO GALAXY 12:00 / 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20	NASAAN KA MAN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
MR & MRS SMITH 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:00 / 9:30	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
MONSTER IN LAW 1:25 / 4:05 / 6:45 / 9:25	
BATMAN BEGINS 12:20 / 1:00 / 3:10 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 6:40 / 8:50 / 9:30	BATMAN BEGINS 1:40 / 4:30 / 7:20 / 10:10
HOTEL RWANDA 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00	

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ NASAAN KA MAN 12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50	❹ KILITI 11:40 / 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
❷ BATMAN BEGINS 11:15 / 2:15 / 5:15 / 8:15	❺ MONSTER IN LAW 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
❸ MR & MRS SMITH 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

June 22, Wed. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS 4:45pm Red Bull vs San Miguel / 7:35pm Shell vs Talk N Text	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT - INDEPENDENT June 24, Friday, 8pm
NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES - GAMES June 25, Saturday, 1pm	June 26, Sun. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS 4:15pm Red Bull vs San Miguel / 6:35pm Shell vs Talk N Text

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENTS	So Shoe Me: The Mother Of All Shoe Festivals extended until June 30 at the Upper Ground Floor of Ali Mall
	Handyman Power Tools & Car Accessories Sale ongoing until June 30 at the Third Floor of Farmers Plaza
	Speedo Sale with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until September 15 at the Ground Floor of Gateway Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

THE MOVIES create a heightened, glamorous and inspiring world on the big screen, but the industry that makes them is less than pluperfect. In fact, some show biz insiders describe the film biz as a nest of vipers, where power play is the name of the game.

Of course, only those with power *can* play, so the names involved in horror stories about the vicious brats of Hollywood are eminently droppable:

One of the stories is about Macaulay Culkin's dad, Kit, a failed actor who, once he realized that fame and fortune had passed him by, focused on making stars of his children, so he could use them as "battering rams" to get what he wanted from producers.

He succeeded in making Macaulay a big child star, and proceeded to use his clout to maximum advantage. Once, he decided that Mac should play the title role in "The Good Son," despite the fact that it had already been given to another child actor, and the production was slated to start shooting in a couple of weeks.

The studio ordered director Michael Lehmann to test Mac for the role, but he was found wanting. Just the same, Kit got his way by threatening to pull his popular son and stellar meal ticket from the sequel to "Home Alone."

Unwilling to forego all of the millions that the sequel was sure to earn, the studio fired director Lehmann and child actor Jesse Bradford, and spent $4 M to reschedule the "Good Son" shoot!

Cashing in

Other celebrity parents who have tried to cash in on their popular children's success include: Jim Carrey's dad, who tried to hawk an "unauthorized" biography of his funny son. Jaid, the mother of Drew Barrymore, who wrote a sexy book, "Secrets of World-Class Lovers." And Demi Moore's alcoholic mom, who posed nude for a men's magazine. The embarrassing spread even included a shot of her working a pottery wheel, like Demi in "Ghost"!

Some stars don't need help from their parents in making malevolent monsters of themselves to get what they want. When they agree to star in a film, they get not only top dollar for their talent fees, but anything else they fancy—anything at all!

Since keeping a star happy is im-

'Sakada' make

"ABCinema" aims to "showcase only the best of local and foreign films." Previously aired on the program were such acclaimed Asian movies as "Kagemusha," "Farewell, My Concubine" and "Homerun."

"Sakada" features a star-studded cast—veterans Rosa Rosal, Pancho Magalona, Robert Arevalo and Gloria Romero, and young '70s talents Hilda Koronel, Bembol Roco and Joseph Sytangco.

What are your thoughts now that "Sakada" will finally air on RP television?

I'm glad, but also a little sad that it didn't have that kind of exposure in the '70s. I'm also worried about the film's condition. The last copy I saw on the big screen was in awful shape. It was faded and the sound was bad. Well, the sound was faulty to begin with. [Also] I don't want it to be taken out of context. The film was strongly motivated by that particular era and its particular needs.

What makes it memorable?

I love the cast—all great actors. It was my first movie, so it was also a learning process for me. It was a very personal project.

Why did you choose "Sakada" as your debut?

My father worked as manager in a sugar central in Negros Occidental. I was familiar with the life of the *sakadas* (migrant farm workers). The characters were very real to me.

What was it like shooting a film on agrarian unrest at the time?

It was 1975, the height of martial law. There was a lot of pressure. We were always in a hurry. We couldn't do [second] takes. We lacked time; we lacked money. When people found out it was not an action movie, doors were closed on me in Negros. I wasn't even allowed to shoot in the central in Cabangcalan where my father used to work.

Ramiro Kilayko (father of pianist Leonor Kilayko) helped me find another central.

I kept changing the script along the way, making an effort to not make the rich look like the *contravida* (bad guys).

The film was about class struggle. In the original script, rich kid Joseph Sytangco's character lived and the peasant Bembol Roco died. I changed it because an *hacendero's* son could never lead a revolution. In the end, it was implied that Bembol's character would con-

Power play in the film biz

portant to producers because it could result in more entertaining performances onscreen, elaborate contracts are drawn up that stipulate *exactly* what a star wants in terms of amenities while shooting a film.

Most demanded

Food and drink are among the items most demanded: Madonna has required bubble gum; Steven Seagal, organic food; Claudia Schiffer, Skittles candies—with the purple ones removed, if you please.

It gets worse: Barbra Streisand insists on peach-colored toilet paper and towels; Arnold Schwarzenegger will not fly commercially and insists on private planes; Suzanne Somers did him one better by demanding *green* jets; Bill Cosby must have a white Jaguar available for his personal use; Eddie Murphy requires a personal trainer; and Jane Seymour takes the cake by insisting on an assistant whose job it is to scurry around with a square piece of red carpet for her to stand on wherever she is!

It's all in the amenities contract, folks. And the power play in the film biz continues to be as relentlessly demanding as it is awesomely bizarre!

Local versions

On the local film scene, some similar horror stories have been making the rounds. A new male star's relative has gotten the ire of his studio's bosses due to what have been perceived to be his excessive demands.

Some stars don't report for shooting so they can rendezvous and snuggle up with their respective lovers, resulting in hundreds of thousands of pesos of their producers' money going down the drain.

And there's the story of the big dramatic actress who became insecure when she saw the rushes of the scenes of a new actress, and insisted that her producer cut out most of the talented newcomer's sequences from the film they were making. (The veteran actress felt she could do this with no compunction because the producer was her lover.)

As a result, the newcomer's career failed to fly high, as it should have, and she went into a period of depression, drunkenness and substance abuse, before she picked herself up and made it as a comedienne.

Power play in show biz isn't child's play, that's for sure!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'The Science of Armstrong'

Gearing up for the July 2 start of the Tour de France and Lance Armstrong's historic final attempt to win a seventh title, Discovery Channel presents an hour-long special, "The Science of Lance Armstrong," to premiere 8 p.m. on Jun 27.

The special takes an in-depth look at the champion's amazing physiology and training techniques. Replays are at 4 a.m. and 12 noon on June 28.

es

. . . From page A2-1

tinue the struggle.

I also changed Rosa Rosal's character, from a crazy Sisa to a courageous Gabriela Silang. I even gave her a fiery speech at the end, which she did in one take.

I wrote that speech overnight. I was inspired by that revolutionary song "Pagbabalikwas." Rosa and I kept the monologue a secret until we shot the scene.

What makes this movie relevant today?

Three decades already passed, but I don't think the situation of peasants and workers have changed that much.

What can young viewers learn from this movie?

I hope the youth, especially those in the city, realize that other Filipinos live under totally different conditions. People said the film's pace was slow, but I did it that way to depict life in rural areas. It's a pity that today's kids have gotten so used to the pace [of] Hollywood movies. But if you drive just an hour away from Manila, you'd see a totally different—slower—way of life.

BEHN Cervantes

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 BATMAN BEGINS
MTRCB: GP
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
MTRCB: PG-13
11:35, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9.15

3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE H2G2
MTRCB: GP
11:30, 2:05,4:40,7:15,9:50

4 HOTEL RWANDA
MTRCB: R-13
11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00

PREMIERE THEATRE MR.& MRS. SMITH
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1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 10:55
PG-13

2 BATMAN BEGINS
10:50, 1:55, 5:00
8:05, 11:10
GP

3 BATMAN BEGINS
10:20, 1:25, 4:30
7:35, 10:40
GP

4 NASAAN KA MAN
10:35, 1:05, 3:35
6:05, 8:35, 11:05
R-13

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CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HOTEL RWANDA Please call for screening sched.	BATMAN BEGINS GP 11:40,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20	THE HITCHHIKER GP 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30
MONSTER IN LAW PG13 1:25,3:45,6:05,8:25	MR. & MRSSMITH R13 12:05,2:35,5:05,7:35,10:05	MONSTER IN LAW PG13 12:55,3:15,5:35,7:55,10:15

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

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3 Nasaan Ka Man
4 Batman Begins
5 Mr & Mrs Smith
P75 Lang Dolby Digital Pa
Experience @ Starmall Edsa 4 & 5
Metropolis 5

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
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2 Mr & Mrs Smith
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 Batman Begins
6 Nasaan Ka Man

starmall LAS PIÑAS
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CINEMA 2 BATMAN BEGINS
GP
12:00 , 2:50 , 5:40 ,8:30 ,

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CINEMA 3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
PG13
11:40, 2:20, 5:00.
7:40, 10:20

CINEMA 4 HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO GALAXY
GP
10:40, 1:05, 3:25,
5:45, 8:05,10:25

CINEMA 5 BATMAN BEGINS
GP
10:30 , 1:20 , 4:10 , 7:00 ,
9:50

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JULY 29 & 30	SOULSISTERS	8PM

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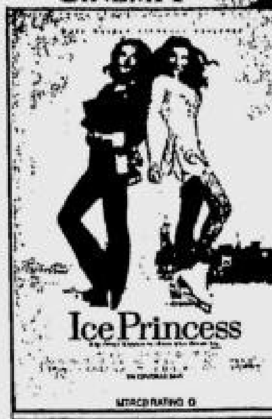

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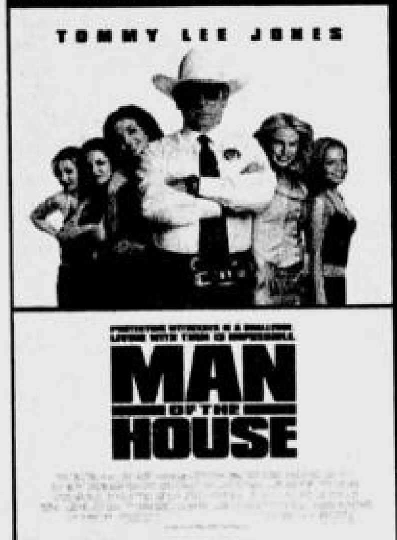
the podium 633-8976
1 BATMAN BEGINS
11:05FS/11:30MF/02:15/05:05/07:45
10:05LFS/10:30LMF/12:50END
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11:15FS/11:40MF/02:00/04:20/06:40
08:40LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END

megamall 633-1901
BATMAN BEGINS
11:15FS/11:45MF/02:30/05:15
07:35LFS/08:00LMF/10:20END

cebu (032) 231-3878
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:20LFS/09:30LFS/11:50END
2 BATMAN BEGINS
10:40FS/10:50MF/01:30/04:15/06:50
09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05/
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END



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2 HOTEL RWANDA
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 SHUTTER
8 ICE PRINCESS
9 MONSTER-IN-LAW
10 BATMAN BEGINS
11 NASAAN KA MAN
12 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE

sm city sta mesa
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 SHUTTER
7 UNLEASHED
8 MAN OF THE HOUSE
9 KILITI
10 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm city fairview
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 PREMONITION
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 MONSTER-IN-LAW
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
9 SHUTTER
10 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
11 KILITI
12 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm city southmall
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
5 STARWARS: EPISODE III
6 MADAGASCAR
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 NASAAN KA MAN
9 SIN CITY
10 SHUTTER

sm supercenter sucat
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm north edsa
1 BATMAN BEGINS
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3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 HOTEL RWANDA
5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

sm city manila
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 HOTEL RWANDA
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
6 BATMAN BEGINS
7 KILITI
8 A LOT LIKE LOVE
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 HOUSE OF WAX
11 SHUTTER
12 PREMONITION

sm city bicutan
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 SIN CITY
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 IN GOOD COMPANY
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 PREMONITION

sm city baguio
1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city bacoor
1 KILITI
2 MADAGASCAR
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4 MONSTER IN LAW
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6 NASAAN KA MAN
7 PREMONITION
8 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city marilao
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4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city dasmariñas
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 PREMONITION
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city lucena
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3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city cagayan de oro
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 UNLEASHED
4 NASAAN KA MAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 MADAGASCAR
6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
7 NASAAN KA MAN
8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

sm city iloilo
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 RESERVED
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 UNLEASHED
7 RESERVED
8 COACH CARTER

sm city davao
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 HOUSE OF WAX

sm city batangas
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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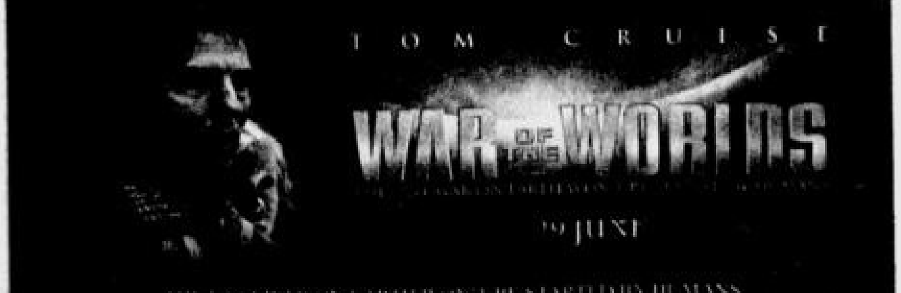

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THE COMPANY—Sweet Plantado, Annie Quintos, Cecile Bautista, Reuben Laurente, Andre Castillo and Moy Ortiz—was formed in 1985, initially as backup vocalists for concert performers. And then they developed their own army of followers.

The group is featured in a concert series at Merk's Bar Bistro on July 5, 12, 19 and 26. Call 757-4720 and 757-4721.

Gary V for a cause

Gary Valenciano stars in tonight in "Soul Full," at the Alabang New Life Christian Center.

The singer is a long-time friend of the center's Pastor Paul Chase, who says the concert aims to "bring hope to hopeless lives."

SHOW TIME

Tonight

Engelbert Humperdinck at the **PICC Plenary Hall, CCP Complex**. Call Ticketworld at 891-9999.

South Border12th anniversary concert at the **Araneta Coliseum**

Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" concert at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental Manila.

Fat Session at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Winston in Concert features **Retrospect** at **Arkdia** in Malate

Nyoy Volante and Mannos at **Suburbia**

Unlabeled Band at **Taste Buds**, Robinson's Place Manila; 7 p.m.

K 24/7and**Passage** at **Fiesta San Miguel** , Dusit Hotel Nikko

Rockin' Revival, a band that specializes in 1950s, '60s and '70s hits, at **Funnside**, Timog Ave., Quezon City, tonight and all Fridays of July.

Tomorrow

KC Concepcion and **Karel Marquez** alternate for the lead role of Belle in "Beauty and the Beast" at Meralco Theater, 2 p.m. This presentation is sponsored by Ateneo High School Class 1980 for the benefit of the Ateneo de Manila Scholarship Fund. Call 818-4152.

Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" concert at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental Manila.

Garfield Fashion Show featuring kiddie models at **Robinson's Galleria Dreamscape**; 3 p.m.

Kuh Ledesma in "The Songs That Made the Movies" at the **Captain's Bar** of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Call 721-0635

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at **Merk's**

NTwine at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Wiseguys and **Freeverse** at **Suburbia**

HUMPERDINCK

MITCH Valdes

ANNA Fegi

June 26

Garfield Fashion Show featuring kiddie models at **Robinson's Galleria Dreamscape**; 3 p.m.

June 28

Mocha with Spinart at **Fiesta San Miguel, Dusit Hotel Nikko**

Bernie Uy at Merk'swith **Route 70**

Human Race at **Suburbia**

June 29

Bernie Uy at **Fiesta San Miguel** , Dusit Hotel Nikko

Wednesday Jazz Festival at **Merk's** with **Richard Merk, Eddie Katindig, Mon David** and **Sandra Lim.**

Anna Fegi with her band **George** at Suburbia

June 30

Myxtremeand **Silk** at **Fiesta San Miguel** , Dusit Hotel Nikko

Rockin' Revivalwill be back at **Merk's.**

King with his band **Rush** back-to-back with Keystone at **Suburbia**

July 1

Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" concert at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental Manila.

July 2

Bukas Palad Music Ministry celebrates its 20th anniversary with a convention and a concert at the **Ateneo de Manila High School** covered courts starting at 12 noon. Call 426-1023.

Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" concert at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental Manila.

July 5

The CompanY at **Merk's**

July 8

Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" concert at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental M

Rico J. Puno live in concert at **Starma** Piñas; 8 p.m.

Rockin' Revival at **Funnside**, Timog Quezon City

July 9

Kyla at the **Araneta Coliseum** for the o of the 68th Season of the Universities A Association of the Philippines (UAAP).

Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" c at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental M

July 12

The CompanY at **Merk's**

July 15

Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" c at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental M

MERK and Friends

THE COMPANY

ROCKIN' Revival

KAREL Marquez and KC Concepcion

MICHAEL V and "Tolits"

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Friday June 24 2005

BANNED FILM FINALLY ON TV! ABC SAKADA the film that was pulled out of theatres during Martial Law can now be shown on TV! With exclusive interviews with Bembol Roco, Rosa Rosal, Robert Arevalo and director Behn Cervantes! SATURDAY 10:30PM

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Ond Fast Young	24			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Mutya 6/10: The Real Story		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		TBA	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Krusada Kontra Krimen		The Insider	Tough Enough	7 Days		Temptation Island 3		The OC		Newswatch Now			
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Shakey's V-League		Asian X-Tour			TM-9 Ball		IBC News Tonite	Nation's Peacekeeper	GMA The Working Pres
JackTV	The Sib Show	Samurai Jack	The Batman	WWE Smackdown				Sweet	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Wrongfully Accused				Worst Case Scenario	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Sneak Peek: Avatar: The Last Airbender		As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Finals	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Club MYX	Star MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Pinagbuklod Ng Langit				Waiting				I Think I'm in Love				Epimaco Velasco				Mama San	
Studio 23						X-Men Evolution	Spiderman	The Batman	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
AXN						Worst Case Scenario		The Associates		Alias (Season III)		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)					
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior	Weird TV	Police Stop		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Surviving Everest				Visions Of Everest		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Pharaoh's Week				Battle Of The X-Planes	
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		WTA '05 Pacific Life Open Indian Wells, USA				Super X Series	Greatest Classics				Sports Desk	NBA Greatest Game				NBA TV Daily	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Moto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decor		Robinson Crusoe PT 1	
HBO			Force 10 From Navarone (3:20 PM)				The Cat's Meow (5:35 PM)				Nick Of Time			Lara Croft: Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life				Jumanji (10.55PM)	
Star Movies			Nemesis Game (AKA Nemesis 4)			The Company (5:05 PM)				Hope Floats				Barbershop			Madhouse (10.45PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Static Shock	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Zoids Fuzors	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
ESPN				U.S. Women's Open Golf Camp								Sportscenter Asia	Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Motorsport Asia	Table Tennis '05 Kitenpin	Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	A Goofy Movie			So Little Time	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Lion King 3 Hakuna Matata!	
Cinemax	Christine			Detonator (4.15 PM)			The Parole Officer (5.45 PM)				American Crime			New Jack City			Timecop: The Berlin Decision		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Judging Amy		Tuesdays With Morrie			Wife Swap (10.35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Great Quakes		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wild Weather: Cold		Extraordinary Experience: Cleopatra's Lost City		Crime Night	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		MTV Classic (Ver 2)		ITVNN: They Wanted A Famous Face	MTV Dive		Newlyweds	Wanna Come In	Faking the Video	Laguna Beach	On Board at MTV	MTV Screen	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus					Inside the PGA	Get A Grip On Golf	Golf Globe '03	Porsche rnd. 4	Nopi Tunerversion	The Search TV	Golf Hawaii 2004	Monster Jam		FMX		Inside the PGA	This Is The PGA Tour		Barclays Classic

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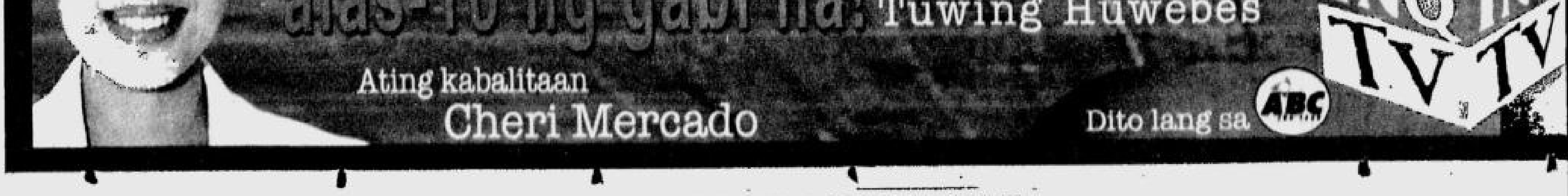
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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WHAT'S INSIDE

COCKTALES/B3

5-month PSE trade value up 162% /B2

What constitutes tax evasion? /B14

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Oil crisis aggravating RP's hardship

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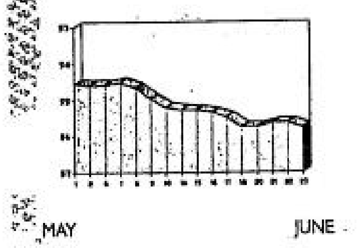


P 55.780 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 23, 2005

¥ 108.73 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 23, 2005

GOLD: $435.90-436.40
per ounce Hong Kong, June 23, 2005

STOCK MARKET

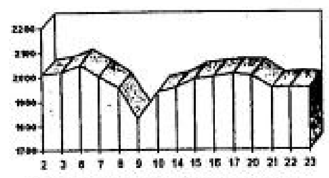
Shares close 0.17% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.17 percent lower yesterday as investors stayed on the sidelines, cautious about political concerns and rising oil prices, dealers said.

However, gains in market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and bargain-hunting interest in Ayala Land provided the market with some support, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 3.40 points to 1,955.22 after trading between 1,943.49 and 1,960.99. Volume was 896 million shares worth P1.4 billion. *AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

GMA rallies support for energy conservation

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, labeling the people behind "this attempt at a power grab" economic saboteurs, yesterday called on the private sector to support her administration's efforts in mending the country's battered economy.

Speaking before an energy efficiency and conservation summit held at the Westin Philippine Plaza in Manila, Ms Arroyo said "no amount of political squabble would prevent me from seeking to improve the lives of the people."

The Chief Executive was alluding to controversies hounding Malacañang aimed at removing her from power.

Ms Arroyo said the current uptrend in world oil prices was aggravating the country's economic hardship and was much worse than the oil crises that rocked the world in 1974, 1979 and 1991.

"Let's take energy conservation seriously and without complacency," she said, adding that such efforts added to the drastic measures her administration had been taking since she became Chief Executive.

She said the other such measures included new tax measures, reforms in the energy sector and increases in workers' wages.

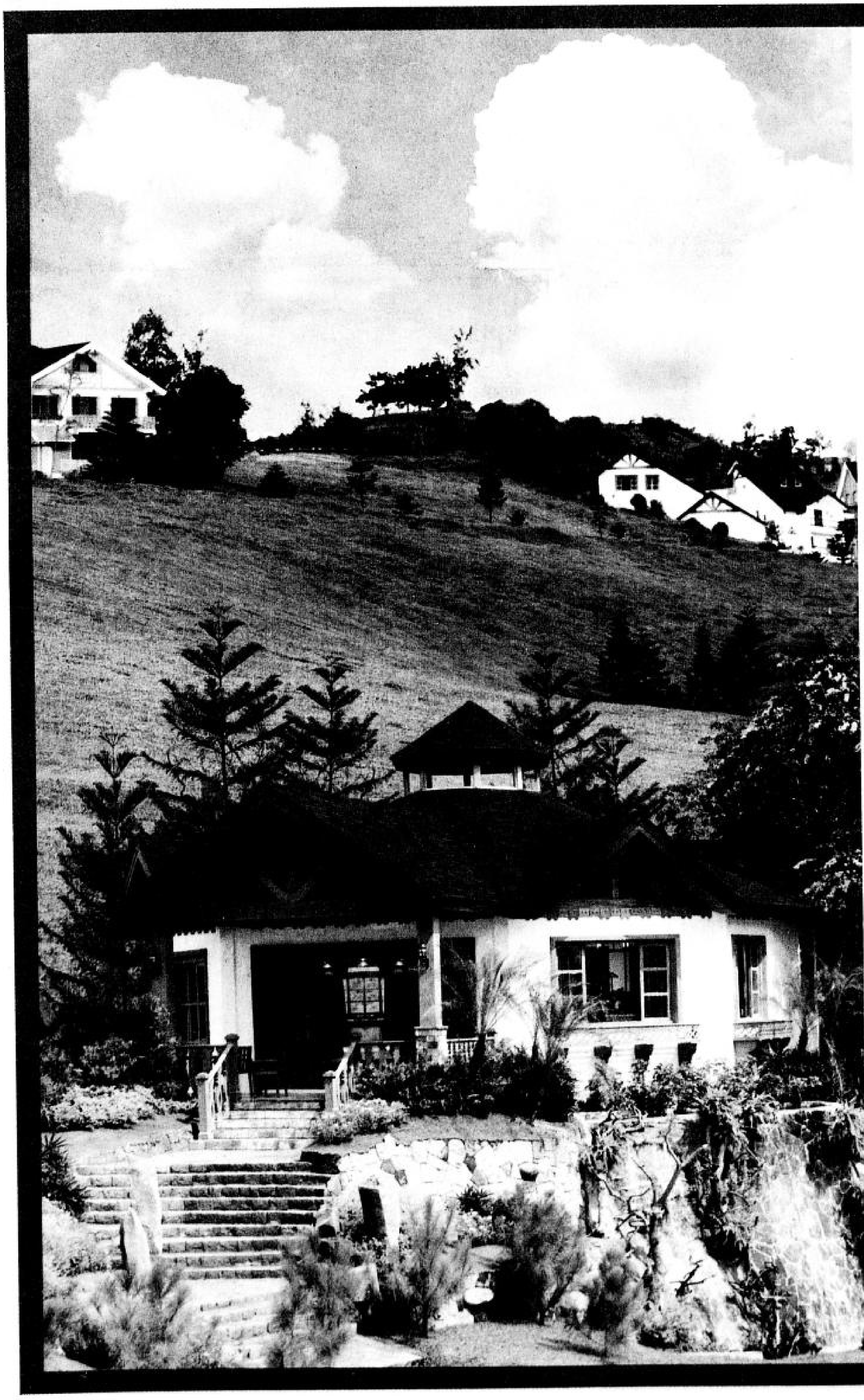
"We had to (take these steps) because the nation is paying for past sins, such as the sin of excessive debt," the President said.

"I came to office to improve the (country's) economic rating and not to improve my public approval rating," she added. The President thanked the business groups in making the move to promote energy conservation, saying that such support was what the government needed.

"I urge you to help me end divi-

OIL/B3

FIGARO Coffee Corp.'s outlet in Dubai, United Arab Emirates is now part of the Arabs' daily habit of coffee and newspapers in the morning. The Dubai store opened last May is the third overseas branch of the Philippine coffee chain.



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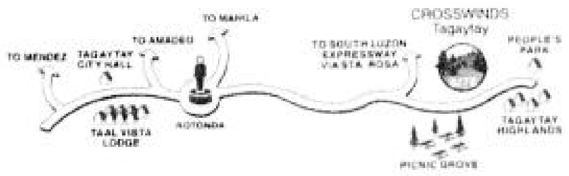

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5-month PSE trade value up 162%

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange said trading value for January to May this year ballooned by 162 percent to P196.5 billion from P74.9 billion a year ago, according to PSE president Francis Lim.

The trading value already accounted for 95 percent of the full year 2004 level of P206.6 billion.

Lim said net income from January to May also grew to P91.575 million from P11.48 million.

For May alone, net income slid 18.5 percent to P13.06 million from P16.02 million in the same period last year.

The income dip was due to the lack of new initial public offerings, said Lim.

He was comparing last month's performance to the first quarter's robust income.

LIM

Net earnings of listed companies on the PSE soared 51 percent at P36.75 billion for the first quarter of the year from P24.32 billion a year ago. Among the big companies that made their public debut in the stock market were SM Investments Corp. and Manila Water Co.

"There are no additional listings in May, but I expect that by the end of the second quarter, the net income would be higher," Lim said. "We hope First Generation will file its IPO in the second quarter."

First Generation is the the Lopez Group's holding company for its power generation businesses. Lim earlier said that First Gen was hoping to raise $300 million from its planned IPO this year.

Among the PSE's 237 listed companies, San Miguel Corp. had the biggest value turnover for the five-month period, coming in from tenth place last year. The PSE said this was due to the food and beverage conglomorate's aggressive acquisition and expansion activities.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. slid to second place from the top spot a year ago, while newly listed SM Investments Corp. debuted at third place. The Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe Telecom and Ayala Land Inc. ranked fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively. Newly listed Manila Water Company Inc. is on seventh place.

"It is our hope that the market would duplicate, if not surpass, its index performance during the first quarter of the year," Lim said.

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AGNP protests ouster of key officers in ETPI

AGN PHILIPPINES Inc., a stakeholder of Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc., has accused two nominees of the Presidential Commission on Good Government of gross negligence and bad faith.

AGNP officials claimed that the PCGG nominees had a hand in the ouster of two key AGNP officers from their positions in the phone company.

AGNP also said that it would soon file graft charges against the two PCGG representatives.

AGNP's move reflects a brewing shareholder scuffle in ETPI, whose net worth now stood at P3 billion.

AGNP, a wholly owned subsidiary of Australian Gigahertz Network International Pty. Ltd., owns 40 percent of ETPI. It has two seats in the telco's board.

In a June 10 letter addressed to PCGG nominees Basilio Cruz and Emiliano Jurado, AGNP legal counsel Andrew Inocencio wrote that both Cruz and Jurado "voted to remove and replace, without due notice or just cause" then incumbent ETPI chair Roger Buckeridge and the president and chief executive officer Nenita Lim-Cruz, "contrary to morals, good customs or public policy."

"Unless and until such actions are recalled and further injuries to our client are stopped, we shall be forced to file a criminal case," Inocencio said in his letter. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 23, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	31	31	435,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49.5	50	861,700
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	540,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	49	49	67,700
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	136,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30.5	29.5	30	905,300
Prudential Bank	400	400	400	400	280
Philippine National Bank	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	55,200
Phil. Savings Bank	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	500
Security Bank Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	24,000
Union Bank Of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	12,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	12,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2680	2680	2680	2680	500
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	34,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1800	1835	1800	1835	3,080
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	43,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	820,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	805	805	805	89,180
Ipeople Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.65	3.75	121,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	1,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	44,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.1	1,620,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1615	1625	1615	1620	307,920
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	920,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	2,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.25	30,800
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	60,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	2,634,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.05	3.05	3,590,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	89,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	7.5	7.6	2,146,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	310,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.3	101,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	170,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	52,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30	30	29	29	171,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	21,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	59	58	59	58,900
San Miguel Corp. B	92	92	91.5	92	216,800
Universal Robina Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	118,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	30,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	11,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge.,Inc. B	6	6	6	6	24,000
Ayala Corp.	335	335	325	327.5	123,710
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.85	2,135,000
Alp.Net Holdings Inc.	0.029	0.031	0.028	0.03	429,400,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	610,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	68,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.6	0.47	0.6	1,110,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	15,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	6,101,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	110,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	750,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.6	2.65	1,501,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	300,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8	8	7.8	7.8	6,293,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	47.5	47.5	46	46.5	356,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.14	300,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	1,100,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1	1	1	1	400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.7	2,762,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.4	2,334,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	13,720,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.24	0.205	0.24	70,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	530,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	671,060
South China Resources Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	30,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.175	3,210,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.08	6,590,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.74	0.74	480,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.1	1,501,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.25	11.25	11	11	554,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.8	8.1	7.7	8.1	28,028,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	3,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,160,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	3,900,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	290,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	6,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	2,681,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	267,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	210,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	25,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.7	9,310,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	28,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	6,800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	7,790,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	12,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	137,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.95	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	3,140,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	31	31	29	30	710,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	290,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	15,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.5	2.5	415,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.14	350,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	30,000

DISCLOSURES

ROBINSONS Land Corp. disclosed that Danilo Ignacio, general manager of its high-rise buildings division, acquired 64,000 common shares on June 16 and 17.

***

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. elected as directors Michael Becker, Francisco Biliano, Santiago Garcia, Kasigod Jamias, Jose Juliano, Paul Kleiner, Michael Leo Luna, Renato Magadia and Ricardo Romulo.

***

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange appointed as assistant corporate secretary Joselito Banaag. It had a net income of P13.06 million in May 2005, lower than the May 2004 net income of P16.02 million.

***

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. announced that its vice president Danilo Ignacio acquired 21,000 common shares on June 16 and 17.

***

PRYCE Corp. elected as directors Salvador Escaño, Fernando Trinidad, Nilo Ezequiel, Antonio Escaño, Efren Palma, Simeon Umandal and Roland Joey de Lara. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 23, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.824334	1.000000	55.6300
Japan	Yen	0.007578	0.009193	0.5114
United Kingdom	Pound	1.502267	1.822400	101.3801
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106106	0.128717	7.1605
Switzerland	Franc	0.648418	0.786596	43.7583
Canada	Dollar	0.667856	0.810176	45.0701
Singapore	Dollar	0.493318	0.598444	33.2914
Australia	Dollar	0.640758	0.777303	43.2414
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.186854	2.652872	147.5793
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219817	0.266660	14.8343
Brunei	Dollar	0.491847	0.596659	33.1921
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000104	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020030	0.024298	1.3517
UAE	Dirham	0.224443	0.272272	15.1465
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.213100	67.4848
Argentina	Peso	0.287977	0.349345	19.4341
Brazil	Real	0.347454	0.421496	23.4478
Denmark	Kroner	0.134274	0.162888	9.0615
India	Rupee	0.018972	0.023015	1.2803
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216959	0.263193	14.6414
Mexico	New Peso	0.076600	0.092924	5.1694
New Zealand	Dollar	0.589315	0.714898	39.7698
Norway	Kroner	0.126910	0.153955	8.5645
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013806	0.016748	0.9317
South Africa	Rand	0.122532	0.148644	8.2691
Korea	Won	0.000816	0.000990	0.0551
Sweden	Kroner	0.107153	0.129987	7.2312
Syria	Pound	0.015880	0.019264	1.0717
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026282	0.031883	1.7737
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000384	0.000466	0.0259

Ax time at ABS-CBN

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE REENGINEERING of market fumbler ABS-CBN would likely start with the collapse of its three-year-old marketing and sales division.

According to the grapevine, the network's Integrated Marketing and Sales Division would be dissolved, with the different broadcast units like Channel 2, UHF stations, cable channels, and radio again having their own marketing and sales staff directly reporting and accountable to their mother units.

The Integrated Marketing and Sales Division was a brainchild of senior vice president Nicanor Gabunada Jr., who introduced the cross-platform and integrated advertising strategy only in 2002.

"It was like merging various cultures," Gabunada's vice president, David Dominguez, said at that time. "We did not even speak the same language in the beginning."

"But we had a clear mandate from the top to integrate and bring in the revenue," he continued. "And that's exactly what we did."

After the earnings spike in 2002 and 2003, revenues and ratings had steadily been downhill for ABS-CBN, until the shocking, first-time loss registered by the country's largest broadcast network this year.

With the putative collapse of his division, it is not clear what fate awaits Gabunada, a 46-year-old former research man, as well as Dominguez and another vice president, Orlando Galang.

New president Luis Alejandro is scheduled to announce today more details of the network-wide reorganization and early retirement program.

Missing Shangri-La gravy

THE SHANGRI-LA hotel chain on record paid more than P356 million to acquire last year an 11-hectare beachfront property in Boracay.

But the minority shareholders of the selling corporation, Boracay Properties Holdings Inc., claim the controlling shareholders only booked P55 million in sales and, worse, even reported a P47.7-million loss for 2004.

Now the minority shareholders are suing their partner-seller, resort owner Esteban Tajanlangit Jr., for damages.

The complainants have even lined up as a key witness stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco, who is listed in the corporate records as having received a 20-percent commission, or more than P70 million, for the land sale.

Manila Bank manna

THE FRANCISCAN sisters of Carmen, Cebu, are praying for a manna from Manila Bank.

According to the grapevine, the monastic nuns have been made the beneficiary of the shareholdings of the late Senate President Gil J. Puyat in the thrift bank, whose relatives, through chair Luis Puyat, now control the rehabilitated bank.

To effect the donation, Manila Bank is being asked to buy back the Gil Puyat block, about 38,000 shares, at P265 each, or a 35-percent discount from the 2004 book value of P405/share.

In turn, the proceeds of the sale, a little over P10 million gross, has been earmarked for the construction of the unfinished church in the Carmen monastery.

Money-go-round

- SEC Chair Fe Barin says she has a new daily prayer, given all the preneed investigations and media interviews now eating up her time: "Grant me the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon and the hide of a hippopotamus."
- The Philippine embassy and various consulates in the United States plan to bring 500 *balikbayans* on July 13, where, for $1,183/person, the balikbayans will travel economy with Philippine Airlines and stay two-nights, twin-sharing at either Shangri-La and Peninsula.

No less than Ambassador Albert del Rosario will act as tour group head.

Highlight of the Manila visit will be an audience with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

- Nokia has introduced its most-expensive cell phone so far, the 8800, which retails for more than P50,000. In the United States, an open-line unit of the same model costs $949.

Heard through the grapevine

IN ADDITION to pet dogs, various reptiles have supposedly been let loose and are now roaming the Malacañang grounds: ANAKonda, BAYAWak and the most vicious of them all, aSAWA.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

3 banks OK ₱1.5-B loan for highway project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority yesterday announced it had signed a P1.5-billion loan with three local banks to complete its local counterpart fund for the 93.7-km Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project.

The BCDA said it concluded the loan deal, which was arranged through Bancommerce Investment Corp., with Philippine National Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines and Allied Banking Corp..

Narciso Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive, said in a statement the loan was a 30-month committed credit line facility convertible into a five-year term loan upon drawdown.

Abaya said that with the financial aspect of the SCTEP in place, the BCDA expected construction of what would be the country's longest expressway to be on track. He said that with construction started last April, the highway is expected to be completed as planned by the latter part of 2007.

The SCTEP has a total project cost of P27.5 billion, with a P21-billion loan from the Japanese government through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) earmarked for the the construction cost.

The BCDA has committed to raise the remaining P6.5 billion as counterpart fund. Of the amount, P3.1 billion would be in the form of tax subsidy while P3.4 billion would be financed through a debt facility.

Abaya said that once completed, the expressway would link the deep-water seaport in Subic and the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark to facilitate the movement in the area of goods, services and people.

According to the BCDA, travel time from Clark to Subic would be cut down to 30 minutes while that between Clark and Tarlac would be pared down to about 25 minutes.

Abaya said the marked reduction in travel time alone would help contribute in reducing the cost of doing business.

Oil crisis aggravating . . .

From page B1

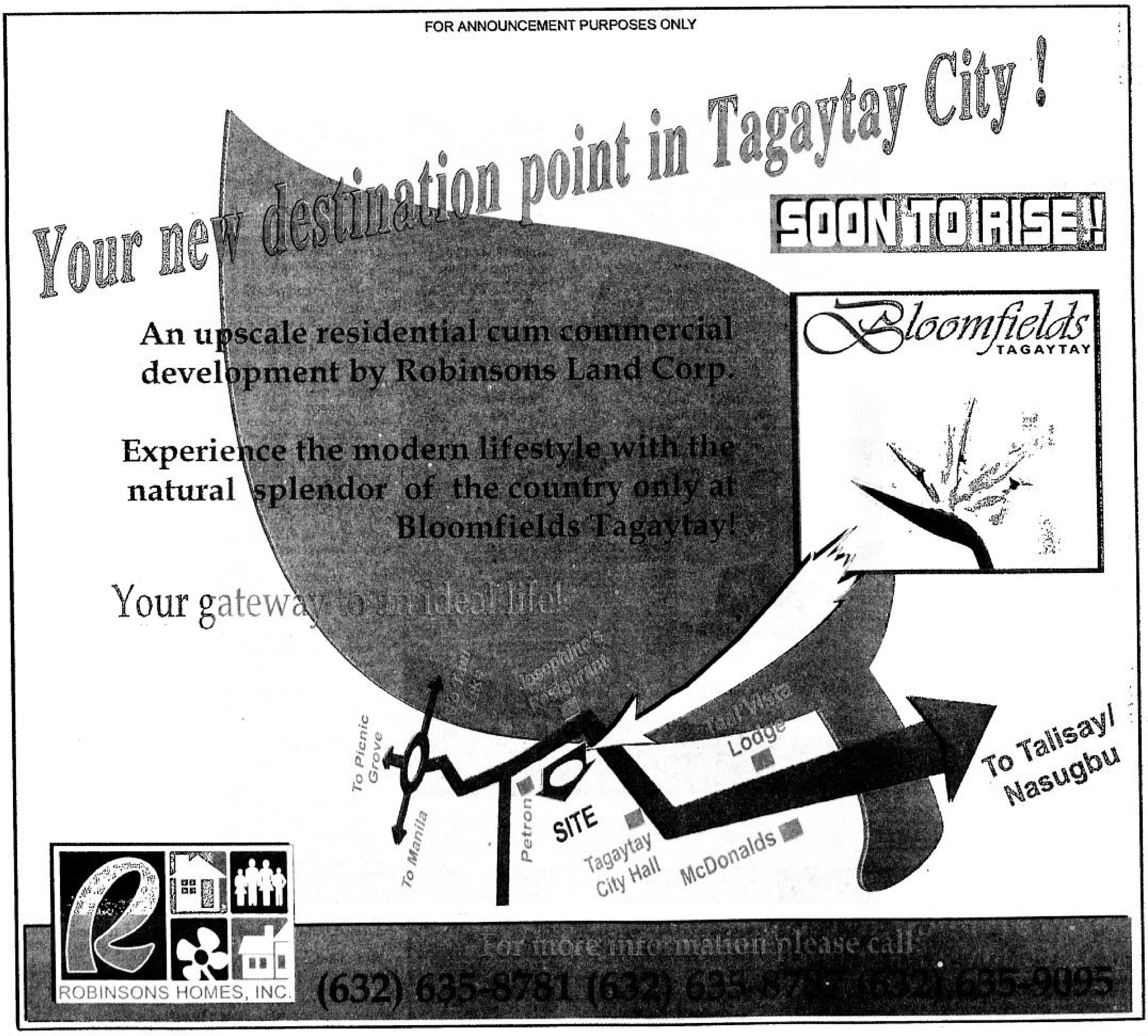
siveness and political warfare," she said. "What's important to me is the economy, to do the right thing unlike those who are no better than economic saboteurs."

Ms Arroyo said the government's efforts to save on energy have resulted in some P1.2 billion in savings aside from the P5.9 billion saved from the National Power Corp.'s improvement of power generation and the P144 million saved when the four-day workweek was implemented in April and May.

During the summit, a coalition of 29 private companies and groups led by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and the Advertising Board presented to the President a manifesto committing themselves to promote energy conservation measures in their workplaces.

The signatories also urged the government to follow suit as they sounded the alarm on another oil price shock.

According to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, who was also present in the forum, latest data showed that the price of crude oil had reached $60 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange while the price of Dubai crude stood at $53 a barrel.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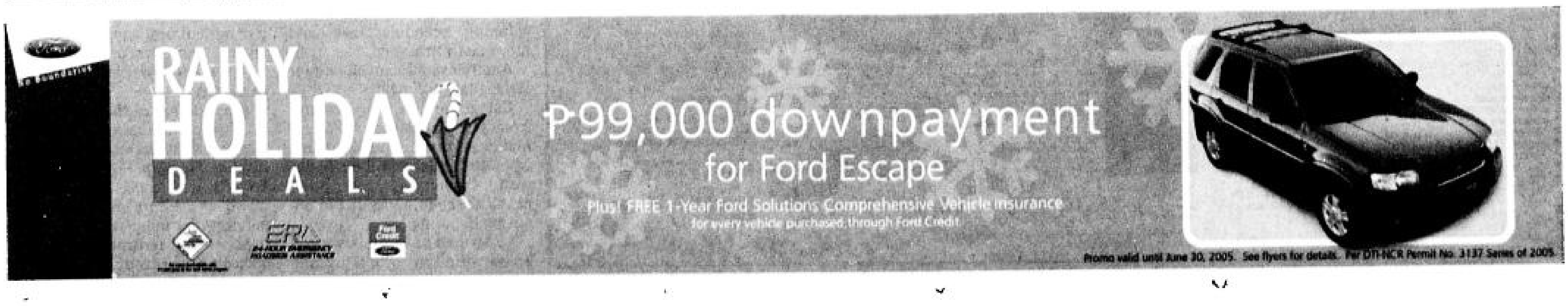

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Kepco to expand Ilijan plant

By Abigail L. Ho

BADIAN, Cebu—Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco) plans to invest $450 million in the expansion of the capacity of its natural gas-fired power plant in Batangas by another 600 megawatts.

On the sidelines of the switch-on ceremony for the firm's barangay electrification project here Wednesday, Kepco chair and chief executive Han Joon Ho said work on the expansion of the 1,200-MW Ilijan plant would begin by late next year.

He said Kepco, parent firm of Kepco Philippines Corp., the country's second largest independent power producer, would be working with the same partners in the Ilijan plant.

Apart from Kepco, which has a 51-percent share in the Ilijan plant, other shareholders include Mirant Philippines Corp., Kyushu Electric Power Co. Inc. and Mitsubishi Corp.

Han said funding for the project would either come from project financing or equity infusion from Kepco.

For the gas supply, Kepco Philippines president Lee Gil Gu said the firm would have to study whether to still source the future gas requirements of the 600-MW expansion project from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project in Palawan.

The Malampaya gas find currently produces enough natural gas to fuel only 3,000 megawatts of power plants.

It currently provides the gas requirements of Ilijan, plus those of the Lopez family's 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo plants, also in Batangas.

Taking these current gas supply purchase agreements (GSPA) into consideration, the Malampaya natural gas project's excess gas production is placed at only 300 MW, or only half of the Ilijan expansion project's requirements.

While Kepco had yet to really study its options in terms of gas supply, Han said the expansion project would have a separate GSPA from the existing Ilijan plant.

Citibank brings remittance facility to RP; first in Asia

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN banking giant Citibank has chosen the Philippines, the world's third biggest recipient of migrant remittances, as its first market in Asia for a new money transfer business.

In a press briefing yesterday, Citibank retail banking director Ailene Litonjua said the bank had recently launched a new remittance service allowing Filipinos in the United States to send money to the Philippines within seconds.

It was the first time that Citibank brought the service to Asia, after introducing a similar scheme in Mexico in 2000.

Although the Latin American market is a bigger market, being the world's largest recipient of remittances from migrant workers, she said Citibank was able to price its money transfer service for Filipinos at the same rate Mexicans are enjoying.

Remittances through the new Citibank facility cost $8 a transaction, which Litonjua claimed was about three times cheaper than the rate currently charged by local banks and financial institutions.

Banking on its extensive network in the world's biggest economy, Citibank is initially targeting the Filipino-American community in California, where it has 400 branches.

Over 70 of those branches have been tapped to deliver the new service.

"The Fil-Am community in the US is among the most affluent," Litonjua said.

All of Citibank's 800 branches in the US will eventually offer the remittance service.

Litonjua said the time was right to bring the service to the Philippines as the bank had expanded its branch network in California through a major acquisition.

She estimated that about 90 percent of the remittances sent by salaried workers in the US were now being coursed through the formal banking channels.

As such, she said Citibank was ready to compete in a market already serviced by other providers, and tap new ones.

Pay ₱27 less for pork

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

IN THIS time of rising prices, do you know that you can pay as much as P27 less for a kilo of pork in a supermarket?

That is, if you shifted your preference from fresh pork to chilled pork. And if the supermarket, no longer needing an agent to handle individual requests for specific fresh pork cuts, decides to sell the chilled pork cuts directly. This has happened in a few supermarkets.

In the wet markets, where the retailer is needed whether the pork is chilled or frozen, the price decrease is less at P13. Still not bad during this period of increased prices.

These statistics were provided by Cecilio Costales, one of the experts participating in the project: "Globalization and Corporate Citizenship—From Seed to Shelf: A Logistical evaluation of Philippine Agriculture."

This is funded by the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) and implemented by the National Economic Development Authority (Neda).

Fresh vs frozen meat

Today, Mindanao farmers usually ship live hogs, instead of chilled pork cuts, to Metro Manila. Because of this, the Department of Agriculture recently launched a commendable project called "Pork in A Box."

This supports efforts to promote frozen, rather than fresh pork, to bring down prices.

An examination of the agricultural supply chain for hogs from General Santos City in Mindanao to Metro Manila shows why costs are lower for frozen pork.

Consider the P13 difference found in the wet market.

Costales states: "The reduction in cost comes mainly from a lower shipping cost, which is substantially reduced from P12.42/kg (live) to only 2.89/kg. This is because the cost of feeds, shrinkage, labor in feeding, and mortality are avoided."

Other contributing factors are reduced port services and lower slaughterhouse fees.

Other advantages

Chilled pork has other advantages.

With live hogs, there is too much supply during lean months and too little supply during the peak periods because of the hog's life cycle.

Both hog farmers and consumers suffer from the unstable supply and demand situation. This also results in fluctuating prices, which many middle men and retailers take unfair advantage of.

With chilled meat, this situation is effectively addressed.

This is done through the proper storage and release of pork to provide consistent and reliable supply during both lean and peak months. Inventories and shipping schedules are also more easily managed.

Another significant advantage is the quality of meat.

Using the live hog channel from General Santos to Metro Manila, many difficulties are encountered, such as sunburn, disease, hematoma, and other physical impairments due to improper handling.

Integrated orders mix various breeds differing in quality and age. This makes it difficult to sort out meat as to uniformity of color index, marbling characteristics, and other attributes important to consumers.

Consistent quality is therefore difficult to attain.

Slaughtering the hogs in General Santos City and shipping them in chilled/frozen carcass and cuts ensure better quality, as well as better delivery scheduling.

Reliability, which is a key indicator of effective supply chain management, is much easier to ensure with chilled meat.

Globally competitive

Today, the General Santos hog farmers are operating under a system of spatially fragmented slaughterhouse, blast freezing, cold storage, processing and packaging facilities.

This results in double handling, increased transportation, and other cost inefficiencies.

To be globally competitive, an integrated slaughterhouse-meat cutting-packaging-blast freezing/cold storage (ISH 4) facility specifically for the hog sector must be established.

This should go with the corresponding information communication technology (ICT) system, and public information campaign promoting chilled pork.

"Projects such as these can further decrease the cost of pork by at least P3 per kilo," Costales says.

Good news

In a meeting two days ago with Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and Neda Secretary Romulo Neri, they said a task force on agricultural logistics would be formed with Secretary Yap himself as the head.

This will help ensure that projects such as ISH 4 will be pursued. More importantly, these will be components of a coordinated holistic plan to improve the agricultural supply and logistics supply chains, an area that has long been neglected in this country.

Fortunately, funding for such pioneering and strategically significant projects has been made available by the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) through their Sustainable Logistics Development Program (SLDP). Conceived by its visionary chair, Vitaliano Nanagas, the SLDP provides a P30-billion loanable fund at interest rates below 15 percent.

Taking a proactive stance, Nanagas says: "We will even help qualified proponents formulate their proposals. If the project is truly worthwhile and beneficial to the nation, we will give the loan the appropriate low interest rate that it deserves."

Interested parties may call the office of DBP executive vice president Elizabeth Ong at 8128075.

With good news like this, we can look forward to more effective agricultural supply logistics chains, more income for the farmers, and lower prices for the consumers.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

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DR. NED ROBERTO, PhD is one of Asia's leading authorities on marketing. He is a much sought after consultant, speaker, author, and educator. He has taught at De La Salle University in Manila, Northwestern University in Chicago and INSEAD in France. He was professor of International Marketing at the Asian Institute of Management for 29 years. In 1983, he received the Philippine Marketing Association's Agora Award for Marketing Education, and in 2004, he was awarded the 1st Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Marketing Educators.

Dr Roberto has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe and Asia such as Procter & Gamble, Citibank, McCann-Erickson, Nestle, AC Nielsen, etc. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing, which has been translated into seven languages, as well as the best selling User-Friendly Marketing Research and several other books and countless papers on marketing.

Dr Roberto earned his MBA and PhD in Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

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IMF urges government to curb excesses of state controlled firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has urged the government to follow up recent strides in fiscal consolidation with more reforms such as curbing the excesses of government-owned and-controlled corporations like the National Food Authority.

During a briefing Wednesday night, a members of a visiting IMF mission said that although considerable progress has been made with the passage of economic reforms, additional fiscal measures are still needed to "ensure achievement of the medium-term plans to balance the budget."

The IMF mission had just wrapped up a post-program monitoring held from June 9 to 22.

Head of mission Masahiko Takeda said discussions during the recent IMF review focused on the NFA, which was seen to account for a large chunk of the consolidated deficit.

The NFA is the sole agency mandated by government to import rice. Like most GOCCs, the agency has been suffering from financial hemorrhage.

Also, the IMF mission expects the Philippines to remain under a high inflation rate regime up until next year, The IMF said that the hike in the value added tax rate would inevitably jack up consumer prices.

According to Takeda, the IMF raised the average inflation rate forecast for the country this year to 8 percent and 7 percent next year.

In its World Economic Outlook released in April, the IMF had projected that inflation this year would rise to 6.8 percent but ease to 4.9 percent in 2006.

But even with the old forecasts, the Philippines was still seen to post the second highest inflation rate among the four biggest economies of Southeast Asia.

Philippine economic managers, on the other hand, still expect inflation to taper off to the targeted level starting next year.

BIR defies court, to levy sin tax on Subic traders

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said it would collect sin taxes from importers at the Subic Special Economic Zone despite a court order barring the agency from imposing the tax among locators.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the Subic locators were not entitled to the tax perk because the National Internal Revenue Code did not say anything about their being exempted.

The new Sin Tax law (Republic Act No. 9334), which took effect in January, already clarified that Subic locators are liable to pay sin taxes, therefore giving the BIR clear authority to collect the tax, she said.

The Sin Tax law basically increased the excise tax rates imposed on cigarettes and tobacco. In one of its provisions, the law also authorized the BIR to impose the tax on sin products entering the country through Subic and the Freeport zones.

The Olongapo City Regional Trial Court earlier issued an injunction barring the BIR from collecting sin taxes (excise taxes imposed on alcohol and tobacco) from Subic locators. The decision followed the filing of a petition for injunction by one locator who complained about being required to pay the tax when it was previously exempted.

In issuing its decision, the court cited Republic Act No. 7227, which states that Subic locators are granted fiscal incentives, such that they are only required to pay 5-percent gross income tax in lieu of all other taxes.

But Henares pointed out that the Ologapo court has "no jurisdiction over the matter."

She said that only the Court of Tax Appeals has the authority to decide over tax-related cases. She said the BIR, empowered by the new Sin Tax law, would collect the tax from Subic locators despite the injunction issued by the court.

The exclusion of Subic locators from the Sin Tax law would reduce the P15 billion in incremental revenue that the government expects to collect from the revenue-raising measure.

Should a locator dispute the government's move to collect taxes, then the BIR would be forced to file a case with the Court of Appeals against the Olongapo RTC for abuse of discretion, Henares said.

Another BIR official said the BIR could actually work on collecting back taxes from the locators, considering that the Tax Code does not say they are exempted from sin taxes. But the official added that what the BIR would currently focus on is the collection of tax dues since January, when the new Sin Tax law took effect.

The official explained that the fiscal incentives granted to locators, as stated by RA No. 7227, were essentially intended for export-oriented firms that import raw materials to promote export. Importation of products for retail, such as cigarettes and alcohol, therefore falls outside the idea of granting incentives for export promotion.

DOF rejects proposal to lower income tax

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has rejected proposals in the Senate to reduce the income tax liabilities of salaried individuals, on grounds that any measure leading to lower revenues for the government was impractical for the moment.

"What we (government) need to do now is to consolidate the revenue gains from the fiscal measures we have implemented. Any law that would cut revenues is untimely," said Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan in an interview with reporters.

Earlier, the National Tax Research Center, an attached agency of the DOF, said Senate bills seeking to cut income tax rates on individuals would lead to revenue losses of as much as P48 billion a year.

Currently, individual income tax rates range from 5 percent to 32 percent depending on an individual's income.

There are several bills filed in the Senate seeking to reduce the income tax rates of compensation earners.

One bill, authored by Sen. Ralph Recto, recommends that the income tax rate imposed on individuals with an annual income of P10,000 and below, be reduced from 5 to 3.5 percent.

It also seeks to reduce the income tax rate imposed on individuals with an annual salary of over P500,000, from P125,000 plus 34 percent of the excess over P500,000 to P100,000 plus 32 percent of the excess of P500,000.

Recto said the bill was necessary to provide relief to taxpayers, whose disposable income would be greatly affected by the government's fiscal measures, including the increase in other taxes.

"In order to provide much needed relief to these income earners, this bill proposes to reduce the tax rates on their incomes by 30 percent. This will result in an increase in their take-home pay by making available to them a higher disposable income, which is otherwise withheld by the government," he said in the bill's explanatory note.

Bonoan, however, said that the reduction in the revenue would erase any gains from the passage of the Value-Added Tax law, which was expected to bring in some P105 billion a year.

"The VAT law was too hard-fought for us to diminish the gains," Bonoan said.

The VAT law basically expanded the coverage of the tax to include previously exempted products and services, such as oil and electricity, and services rendered by lawyers and doctors.

The VAT law also gave the President the authority to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent in 2006, and corporate income tax rate from 32 to 35 percent.

The VAT law is the Arroyo administration's main revenue-raising measure to solve the government's fiscal problem.

The government wants to wipe out its budget deficit, which stood at P187 billion last year, by 2010 or earlier. *Michelle V. Remo*

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BUSINESS*Friday*

Need a loan? Make sure you have the numbers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ENTREPRENEURS usually complain about banks and financial institutions making it virtually impossible for them to borrow the money they need to expand their business, or take advantage of new opportunities.

The banks take forever to approve their loan applications. They require so many documents, and make them go through so many interviews.

These are just some of the complaints that entrepreneurs have against the lending firms.

Owners of small and medium-scale enterprises, however, do not have the monopoly of the complaints department.

The banks and financial institutions handling other people's money for relending to small and medium enterprises have their own concerns with entrepreneurs.

Benel P. Lagua, president and chief operating officer of SB Corp. and Ma. Agnes J. Angeles, senior vice president of Plantersbank, said during the last Good News Kapihan held at Global Café in Greenbelt, that it was actually easy to secure a loan, but that many of the prospective borrowers do not have the most basic of documents, such as financial statements.

"It is not that the banks do not want to lend money. That is our business. But financial statements are usually wanting, and we need those to assess risk," stressed Angeles.

Financial statements provide a snapshot of the financial health of the SME. These give banks an idea of whether the borrower has the capacity to meet debt payments.

Lagua, however, said that in many cases, SMEs do not have a standard accounting system, much less a financial statement.

He said that proprietors are usually so involved in the daily running of the business that putting books in order has fallen by the wayside.

Angeles said that some borrowers have not opened bank accounts, nor registered their businesses.

They are usually their own accountants and bookkeepers, which does not bode well for their chances of having loans approved. Some submit makeshift financial statements where the debit and credit columns do not match.

Lagua and Angeles, thus, encouraged SMEs seeking additional financing to invest in accountants, who can put their financial statements in order.

That is the first step in taking out a loan from banks just waiting to support SMEs with potential for growth.

The next is to have a business plan, which will spell out where the money will be used.

Lagua and Angeles said that SMEs cannot expect banks and financial institutions to extend a loan without a business plan.

If a financial statement reflects the company's current standing, then a business plan gives lenders a peek into the borrower's future.

The plan likewise gives credit investigators an idea of how serious the SMEs are about growing their business using other people's money.

Lagua and Angeles said there are lenders willing to take the risk, but SMEs must also do their part.

SB Corp., an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, is mandated to give loans to support growth of SMEs.

SB Corp. figures showed that it lent about P3.2 billion last year to SMEs. Through more aggressive marketing, SB Corp. wants to increase total loans to at least P3.6 billion this year.

Among its programs is SME-Guide, which allows DTI-endorsed SMEs involved in priority SME industry sectors to borrow as much as P5 million to either put up buildings, buy equipment or lots, or finance working capital requirements.

Priority SME industry sectors were identified as food products, gift wares and holiday décor, home furnishings, wearables, organic and natural products, construction materials, marine products, microelectronics, motor vehicle parts and information technology services.

The program is open to Filipino-owned enterprises with an asset size of between P500,000 and P100 million. The company must have been in operation for at least a year with good financial results.

SB Corp. also has its SME-Force program, which allows entrepreneurs to borrow money to acquire franchises of accredited companies, such as those affiliated with the Association of Filipino Franchisors Inc.

Plantersbank, on the other hand, has been hailed as one of the leading forces in SME lending, with total loan portfolio placed at P16.5 billion as of December last year.

Angeles said Plantersbank was looking forward to growing the portfolio to P20 billion and accounts to 10,000 by the end of 2010.

"SMEs should remove that mentality that only the big firms can borrow money. They can too, as long as they have an established business," Angeles said.

Marketing experts meet in Cebu

THE BEST marketing minds in the Asia Pacific gather at the annual convention of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF) in Cebu today until Sunday to explore relevant issues in the highly dynamic marketing field.

The APMF, led by its president, and Asian Institute of Management Professor JJ Roces, will tackle the latest developments in the Certified Professional Marketer (CPM) examinations and its significance in the Asian economy.

CPM Society of the Philippines President Professor Nick Fontanilla said representatives from Asian countries are expected to participate in the APMF annual event including those from from Singapore, China, India, Japan, Sri Lanka and Korea, among others.

Fontanilla emphasized the importance of CPM in the Philippines in uplifting the standards of the marketing profession in the country.

"CPM as a certifying exam can define the minimum standards or baseline that the Philippines must have in the marketing field. In the long run, it can also improve the marketing industry in the country and protect the rights of the consumers and the businessmen," he said.

There are currently 21 CPMs in the country and approximately 500 CPMs in the region.

The CPM certification is under the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA).

CPM is a quality seal that asserts that its holder has reached a level of marketing expertise as exhibited by his/her experience and contributions to the marketing profession. The title serves as a formal endorsement of professional status to marketing professionals who have already attained a competent level of marketing in the Asia Pacific region.

According to Fontanilla, this status is conferred by the APMF and recognized by all national marketing bodies in Asia Pacific. In the Philippines, the CPM Society of the Philippines and PMA manage the affairs of all the CPMs in the country.

If a candidate passes the qualifying exam in the Philippines, he/she can be certified as a CPM of the entire Asia Pacific region.

To become a CPM, candidates must successfully complete the CPM (Asia Pacific) Qualifying Examinations and have at least five years of relevant marketing experience in an Asia Pacific country.

An interested applicant will approximately spent about $325 for the review (under PMA) and the qualifying exam.

Fontanilla is encouraging all marketing professionals in the Philippines to take a step further and be a CPM.

"As the world shifts to Asia as a major driving force in the economic development, CPMs are expected to play a vital role in bringing this progress to the Asian business landscape," Fontanilla added.

What constitutes tax evasion?

By Antonette C. Tionko and Eugene M. Pulga
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

WITH the many tax evasion cases being filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue against corporations and individuals under the Run After Tax Evaders or RATE program, many still wonder, "What constitutes tax evasion?"

In general, tax evasion is a scheme used outside lawful means and when availed of, usually subjects the taxpayer to further or additional civil or criminal liabilities. (Jose C. Vitug and Ernesto D. Acosta, Tax Law and Jurisprudence 44). Thus, any person who willfully neglects to file a return within the period prescribed by the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) or willfully files a false or fraudulent return will be liable to a penalty of 50 percent of the tax or of the deficiency tax. A substantial under declaration, of sales, receipts or income or a substantial overstatement of deductions as determined by the BIR commissioner constitutes prima facie evidence of false or fraudulent return. Failure to report sales, receipts or income by at least 30 percent of that declared in the return constitutes substantial under declaration, and a claim of deductions in an amount exceeding 30 percent of actual deductions will be considered an overstatement of deductions. (Section 248(B), 1997 Tax Code)

The NIRC imposes additional penalties for certain crimes and offenses, such as:

a. Willful attempt to evade or defeat tax—a fine of not less than P30,000 but not more than P100,000 and suffer imprisonment of not less than two years but not more than four years; (Section 254, NIRC)

b. Willful failure to file return, supply correct and accurate information, pay tax, withhold and remit tax and refund excess taxes withheld on compensation—a fine of not less than P10,000 and imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than 10 years; (Section 255, NIRC)

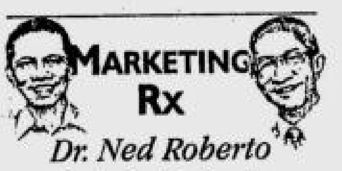
All the above acts or omissions constitute tax evasion which connotes the integration of three factors: (1) the end to be achieved, i.e., the payment of less than that known by the taxpayer to be legally due, or the non-payment of tax when it is shown that a tax is due; (2) an accompanying state of mind which is described as being "evil," in "bad faith," "willful," or "deliberate and not accidental"; and (3) a course of action or failure of action which is unlawful. (De Leon, Fundamentals of Taxation, 1998 edition, cited in CIR v. The Estate of Benigno Toda Jr. G.R. No. 147188 dated Sept. 14, 2004).

Recently, the Supreme Court ruled that a certain scheme was tainted with fraud and therefore constituted tax evasion. In the said case, Company A sold a piece of property for P100 million to an individual, who was a close business associate of Company A's primary shareholder. The individual purchaser, in turn, sold the same property on the same day to Company B for P200 million. Company A paid, among others, its tax on gain from the sale of the property at the rate of 35 percent as corporate income tax for 1989. On the other hand, the individual paid the 5 percent capital gains tax (CGT) on the same year.

The Supreme Court ruled in this case that the scheme resorted to by Company A and its primary shareholder cannot be considered legitimate tax planning. Such scheme is tainted with fraud. Fraud in its general sense, is deemed to comprise anything calculated to deceive, including all acts, omissions and concealment involving a breach of legal, or equitable duty, trust or confidence justly reposed, resulting in the damage to another, or by which an undue and unconscionable advantage is taken of another. The intermediary transaction which prompted more on mitigation of tax liabilities than for legitimate business purposes constitutes one of tax evasion. Moreover, the three factors constituting tax evasion exist in this case. (CIR v. The Estate of Benigno Toda Jr., id).

To summarize, to determine whether in fact someone can be held liable for tax evasion, the three factors enumerated must be present. Absence of just one will mean the case will not prosper.

'How do I account for the sales effectiveness of sponsorships?'



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: I'M A product manager in a foreign pharma company here in the country. We're in high-end products like anti-hypertension, anti-diabetes, and the like. The focus of our ethical promotion with doctors is sponsorships. We sponsor doctors to international conventions. We sponsor foreign speakers, and continuing medical education programs, seminars, etc. The problem is that we have a new chief financial officer who recently told those of us in marketing that he will not recommend budget approval of any of our sponsorship budgets unless we can account for each sponsorship's MD prescription and revenue returns. You've just written something on marketing's accountability and am wondering if you can help me. How do we account for the sales impact of our sponsorships? I could use some of your learnings if you can share your experience in this kind of problem.

A: The very first marketing concept to remember in this issue is that sales comes from not one or two or three of the 4 Ps of the marketing mix but from all four together. Note too that sponsorship is not even a whole one P but is just a fraction or one form of the P known as promotion (or specifically consumer promotion).

So strictly speaking, there's no unambiguous way you can account for the sales impact of sponsorship. If ever there is sales effectiveness, you can't disentangle what portion of sales comes from sponsorship. All the other Ps in the marketing mix change with the sponsorship change.

Tracing effectiveness of sponsorships

But it is in this qualifier where you can at least say that, conceptually speaking, you can trace sponsorship's sales effectiveness. You can, IF during a given campaign period, it was only sponsorships that changed while all the other Ps just stayed at their former levels. If sales changed and it was only sponsorship that changed before the change in sales while all the other marketing mix Ps remained unchanged, then there's a compelling logic and strong common sense in placing the "cause" of the sales change on sponsorship.

The other plausible and more real-world occasion for a cause-effect reading of the sponsorship-and-sales relationship is when the sponsorship has been so designed to generate sales. A familiar example is the sponsorship of a movie premier where your product is conspicuously featured in one or two scenes in the movie. If at the same time, you place your product on sale at the movie house lobby, then you'll have very few cynics questioning your claim that the sales obtained during that premier came from the sponsorship.

In this category of sponsorship, it's usual to find many of your friends saying: "We're not talking of a one-night stand here like a movie premier. We're concerned about a year-long sales effect or sales from a quarter-long campaign." But this is confusing the effect with the cause. The cause is sponsorship; the effect, sales. The cause can be a one-night or a one-day event. That's true with most sponsorships of a foreign speaker, a conference or convention, and so on. For the effect, it's usual to think and expect beyond the period of occurrence of the cause. That extends to a quarter, a semester or even a year.

In many of the conferences that the junior MRx has produced, corporations have given us feedback that they could directly link sales increase and new accounts to the event or seminar that they sponsored. One such sponsor was a publishing company that had put up a "customized publishing" division. Part of the sponsorship benefits included a booth and access to the event database where all the delegates were given a sample of the work they had done for a few clients. They were also allowed an AVP of their services. When we approached them again the next year to be a sponsor at the direct marketing forum, the managing director declined, stating that, "We got too much business from the leads form last year's event!" It was a happy problem for them because they had trouble keeping up with the flow of new business that they had to hire new account managers.

There are three keys in getting a good ROI when you sponsor events:

1.) **Get the event database.** Make sure that you get a copy of the list of delegates (with their contact details of course) so that your sales and marketing team can follow through or close sales.

2.) **Be present.** Have more than a "logo/branding" presence during the event. The awareness is good but hard to measure. Make sure that you have your sales team at the event-both as delegates and to man your booth—to network and give a "face" to your brand. Make sure that your senior sales managers—and not just the junior account executives—are there at the event.

3.) **Be creative.** Ask your agency or creative team to come up with ideas that will make your event presence memorable and "sticky." There are some case studies in the pharma industry where customized books and music CDs (licensed) that were meaningful and had a relation to the event theme have been more effective than the usual bags, golf items, pens, etc.

Sponsorships are for goodwill and CRM

Now, most sponsorships are not designed or intended for immediate sales generation. There's a second category of sponsorships and it's the more usual kind. It's the sponsorship whose purpose is mainly to generate goodwill. Most sponsorship are in fact for goodwill building and customer relationship marketing (CRM).

Take for example, your sponsorship of a foreign speaker or a professional conference. Your principal goal here is to establish as well as sustain (for the subsequent replications) goodwill for your company among doctors. You want that goodwill to accumulate to the point where it establishes a unique reputation for your company. Ultimately and eventually, you're hoping that the goodwill and the reputation will register as sales.

For goodwill building sponsorships, accountability must be in terms of that purpose. To what extent and with how many target doctors did such-and-such a sponsorship establish goodwill? And what kind of goodwill? These are the appropriate accountability questions to answer.

'While you were sleeping'

You need an evaluation survey of a random and representative sample of the target doctors for this. You can't find the data in the prescription slips of the doctors. Goodwill precedes the act of prescribing or else remains in the doctors' minds or hearts. Oftentimes, that good feeling simply lies quietly in those minds and hearts. It even sleeps there. And then suddenly once the feeling accumulates to a critical mass, one fine day the target doctor awakens and "falls in love" with your company. In the consumer behavior literature, this is called the "sleeper effect."

So when confronting the issue of accountability for sponsorships, you may want to start by distinguishing first between a sponsorship for sales generation, and a sponsorship for goodwill building. Then design the sponsorship accordingly with your Chief Financial Officer present in the planning team. If you don't get your CFO to buy-in at the very beginning, he'll continue to behave the way he's behaving now. And next, gather data on the accountability metric defined by the sponsorship purpose: Sales versus goodwill.

E-mail questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

Oil seen staying above $50 levels through 2006

NEW YORK—Global oil prices will remain higher than $50 on average for the next 18 months, said Guy Caruso, head of the US Energy Information Administration at a Reuters Energy Summit on Wednesday.

"We think fundamentals are really the driving force" behind recent high oil prices, said Caruso, adding that while speculators have entered the oil futures market, prices are up because of fundamental supply-and-demand factors.

On Tuesday, benchmark US crude came within 30 cents of $60 a barrel.

With refiners in the United States increasing capacities by about one percent to 1.5 percent annually and product demand growth in the country expected to run 1.5 percent annually, Caruso said US refining would remain tight for 20 years.

"We're certainly not in a situation where it's getting better," Caruso said.

His forecast was identical to recent monthly outlooks by the EIA, the statistical and analytical arm of the US Department of Energy.

"If, indeed the commodity and hedge funds are long, it's because that's where the risk is," Caruso said. "Some people may say this is speculatively driven, I don't really think it is." He does not forecast a dramatic price drop for oil prices.

"We don't see one," Caruso said. "We're not projecting a recession."

Caruso said it was too early to make specific demand and price predictions in the coming Northern Hemisphere winter, when crude and product consumption is expected to increase.

Much will depend on how much distillate imports come to the United States from Europe, Caruso said.

"We normally import a fair amount of distillate in the wintertime from Europe," he said.

"With the strengthened distillate demand in Europe you always have to be concerned if there is going to be enough export capacity from European refineries for (US) distillate demand this winter."

EIA figures show higher US gasoline and distillate demand this year despite high prices.

This indicates a strong economy, he said, but lower oil prices would make it stronger.

EIA analysts ran models showing that at $30 a barrel crude prices, gross national product would have been about 0.75 percent higher than with crude at $50 a barrel, Caruso said.

One reason high prices have not caused a drop in demand is that gasoline and distillate fuel use is linked to personal disposable income, which has remained strong, Caruso said.

US and global refiners have not kept up with demand for products such as gasoline and diesel fuel.

Opec oil ministers, including Ali al-Naimi of Saudi Arabia, last week blamed near-$60 oil prices on a refining bottleneck.

Caruso said the factors leading to current high oil prices are "complicated," although refinery bottlenecks are one.

"I think the whole system is tight," Caruso said. "I think it reflects the general infrastructure's lack of investment that really began in the 1990s with low (oil) prices, low rates of return on refineries and downstream." *Reuters*

SE Asian stocks mixed, Singapore at 10-day high

SINGAPORE—Southeast Asia stock markets were mixed on Thursday with DBS Group and other blue chips lifting Singapore shares to a 10-day high while the Philippines hit a nine-day low, partly on political worries.

Malaysia slipped 0.47 percent by the midday break but the main Indonesian stock index added 0.73 percent, powered by gains in automotive distributor Astra International Tbk.

Thai shares were up 0.34 percent by 1 p.m. yesterday, led by rises in energy firms on hopes of higher oil prices.

Singapore's main Straits Times Index climbed 0.72 percent as banks and blue chips mirrored gains in other Asian markets and rose on hopes of the economy recovering in the next quarter, led by a growth in technology exports.

"The market is reacting to expectations of growth in the third quarter," said Steven Lim, fund manager at Daiwa SB Investments Singapore, noting that the decline in May export numbers from the city-state posed risks that the second quarter slowdown might be sharper than expected.

Singapore, whose economy contracted at an annualized 5.5 percent in the first quarter of 2005, saw its exports dip a seasonally adjusted 5.3 percent in May from April.

But analysts saw exports rebounding in the second half of the year as oversupply in the chip industry eases and demand grows ahead of the year-end.

Banking firm DBS rose 1.4 percent and contract electronics manufacturer Venture Corp moved up 3.2 percent.

In the Philippines, conglomerate Ayala Corp. dropped 1.5 percent to lead the declines.

The main index fell as much as 0.77 percent but cut losses to close down 0.17 percent.

"The fall is just due to the recurrent rise in crude prices and the persistent political disturbances," said Monique Lecaros, institutional sales manager at Manila-based SB Equities Inc.

In Thailand, PTT Exploration and Production rose 2.7 percent. A dealer said the firm is the main beneficiary of high oil prices and investors betting oil prices are on an upward trend.

Oil prices were higher at $58.39 a barrel in Asian trading on Thursday after a two-day retreat.

But PTT PCL, Thailand's top energy firm, gave up some of its gains, after saying its petrochemical operations in drought-struck eastern Thailand will be affected by the severe water shortage. *Reuters*

China's CNOOC confident in $18.5-B Unocal offer

HONG KONG—Chinese state-run oil firm CNOOC Ltd. has offered to buy US producer Unocal for $18.5 billion in cash, setting the stage for a takeover battle with Chevron Corp.

If CNOOC acquires Unocal, it would be the biggest-ever overseas acquisition by a Chinese firm, reflecting China's broader energy strategy of buying overseas oil and gas reserves to feed its fast-growing economy for years into the future.

CNOOC chair Fu Chengyu told Reuters in an interview on Thursday that he was confident of winning any takeover battle.

Fu said CNOOC's bid was "clearly superior" to Chevron's cash and stock offer to buy Unocal for roughly $16.4 billion.

"Cash is cash. One hundred percent cash offers complete value certainty to Unocal shareholders, as opposed to Chevron's cash stock offer," Fu said.

"We are quite confident. We believe the US government will approve the deal."

CNOOC's counter-offer—widely awaited by investors after it hinted at it earlier this month—was made after its board of directors met for several hours in Beijing on Wednesday night.

Unocal, sought after for its prized portfolio of Asian assets, responded by saying it would evaluate CNOOC's offer, but that its board continued to recommend a deal with its larger California rival Chevron.

Chevron continued to stand behind its April offer and said its deal was highly likely to close since it is nearing completion of the regulatory process to allow for a vote by Unocal shareholders in early August.

The companies had initially expected to close the deal by the end of the year, a Unocal spokesman said.

For Chevron, Unocal represents an opportunity to boost its profile closer to industry leaders Exxon and BP, as well as replenish reserves that are getting harder and harder to find.

Despite the bold move to challenge Chevron on its home turf, CNOOC stressed that its bid of $67 for each Unocal share was friendly and that it is seeking a consensual deal with Unocal.

The Chinese company—which analysts have warned could face political hurdles in buying a US company—also promised the deal would not hurt the US oil and gas market, since Unocal's US oil and gas output would continue to be sold here.

Chevron in April beat out CNOOC and other potential suitors to win a tight race for a deal to buy Unocal, which has an attractive portfolio of assets in Asia. Chevron would also take on $1.6 billion in debt.

The Chevron deal carries a $500 million break-up fee, meaning any new suitor would have to pay Chevron $500 million.

Shares of CNOOC rose 1.2 percent to HK$4.225 in early trade on Thursday. Chevron closed down less than one percent to $58.27, while Unocal inched up one cent to $64.86 a share on Wednesday.

The combined company would more than double CNOOC's oil and gas output and increase its reserves by nearly 80 percent to approximately four billion barrels of oil equivalent.

But most company watchers have said a counter-bid would harm CNOOC due to high costs, and investors have already been penalizing CNOOC by dumping its shares.

"This deal definitely poses problems. We are worried that it will affect their balance sheet with high gearing and the firm may cease to give out special dividends even if oil prices are high," said Alan Shum, portfolio manager at China Insurance Group Assets Management Ltd., which holds CNOOC bonds. *Reuters*

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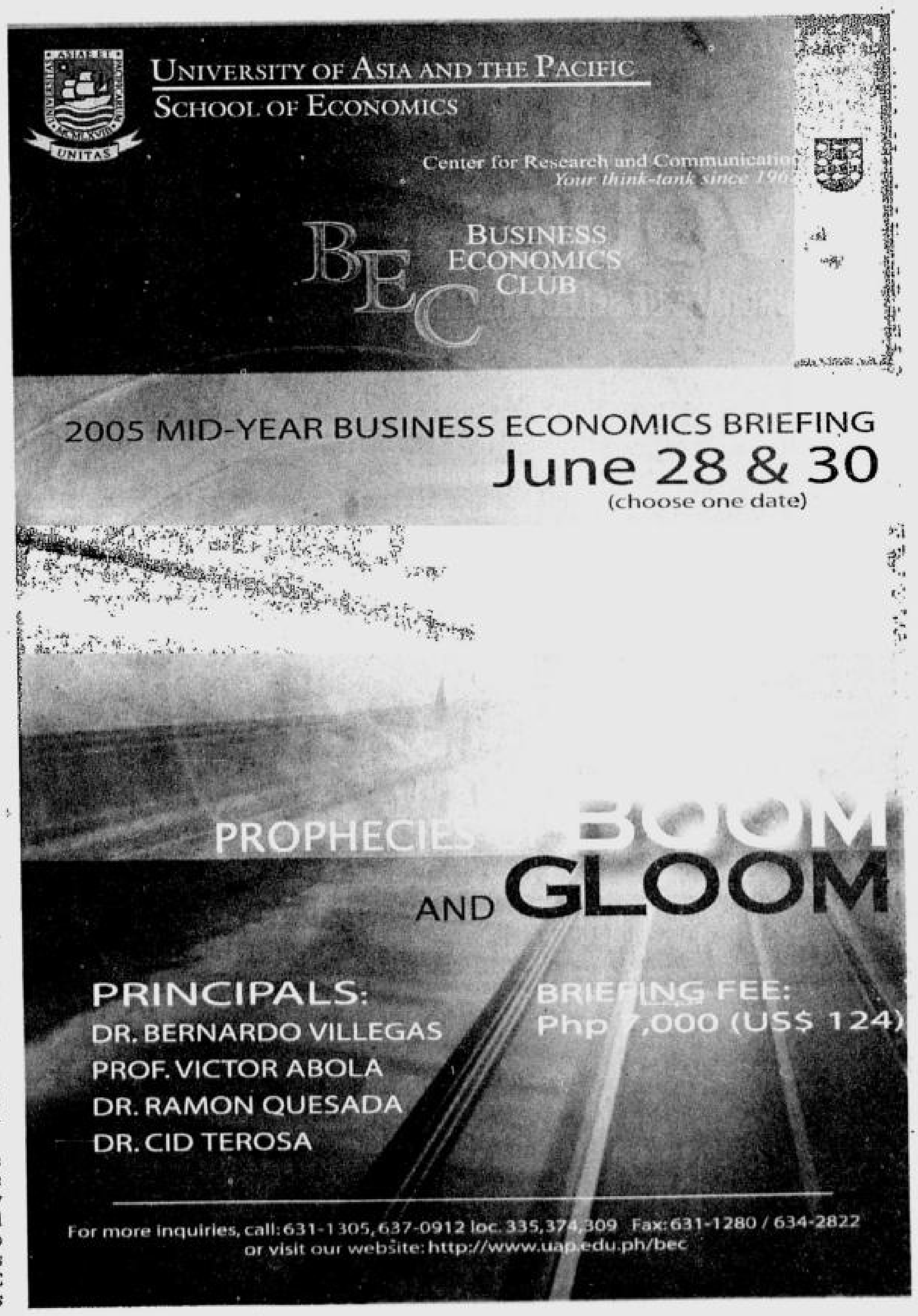

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ROAD TALK

Altering the way SUVs are defined

AT THE May 23 launch of the new Isuzu Alterra were, from left: Shunichi Satomi, senior executive officer, Asean area operations, Isuzu Motors Ltd Japan; Masakazu Okabayashi, SVP Mitsubishi Corp (Japan) and GM, MC (Manila branch); Kazuhiko Sho, executive vice president, Isuzu Philippines Corp; Yoshifumi Komura, president, Isuzu Philippines Corp; and Koichi Murai, chair, Isuzu operations Thailand.

MORE than any other carmaker, Isuzu believes that motor vehicles should primarily be powerful, dependable, and easy to maintain. It is therefore understandable why Isuzu Philippines Corp's impressive product line in recent years has included only the best such vehicles-Trooper, Hi-Lander, Fuego, Crosswind, D-Max.

Isuzu is about to alter the commercial-vehicle landscape by introducing another winner that is not only brutishly hardworking but also urbanely luxurious and comfortable. Welcome the all-new Alterra, Isuzu's new sport recreational vehicle that has all the good looks of an SUV, all the versatile features of a multipurpose mover, and all the creature comforts of a passenger sedan.

Isuzu engineers designed the Alterra with the modern lifestyle in mind, achieving a delicate balance between performance and versatility. The all-new Alterra communicates the dynamism of this modern lifestyle chiefly with its unique graphic design that features, among others, a symmetrical U-shaped panoramic line apparent when the vehicle is viewed directly from the front or the rear. Isuzu calls this design motif "mono form." As a result, the Alterra looks clean and sleek but subtly aggressive. No more clumsy lines and curves. The profile and the rear view especially convey the impression that this vehicle is always ready to pounce.

Other noteworthy design cues of the Alterra include: special-design side step board that perfectly matches the over-fender; elegant 16-inch aluminum alloy wheels with 245/70 R16 tires; upscale large, crystal headlamps with fog lamps; LED-type turning lights on side mirrors; color-keyed roof rail; rear windshield defogger; rear door integrated spoiler with third brake lamp; and chrome tailpipe finisher.

More important than the attractive styling, however, is the power plant residing under the Alterra's hood. Designated the 4JJ-1 I-TEQ, this third-generation DOHC common-rail direct-injection diesel engine supplies no less than 180 megapascals (MPa) of pressure to its electronically controlled injection nozzles. Common-rail pressure is the main key to better diesel engine performance, since higher pressure naturally results in more efficient fuel combustion.

To put into perspective how advanced this engine is, consider that Isuzu's first-generation common-rail direct-injection diesel introduced in the Trooper in 1998 had a pressure of 135 MPa, enough to break wood with water as medium. The second generation of this diesel engine type, introduced recently to the Philippine market by another carmaker in a new compact pickup has a pressure of 169 MPa, enough to cut through wood cleanly or break glass with water as medium.

But the amount of pressure in the Alterra's 4JJ-1 I-TEQ engine is already enough to cut through glass cleanly with water as medium.

The 3.0-liter 4JJ-1 I-TEQ diesel, in 16-valve double overhead camshaft (DOHC) configuration, produces a maximum of 146 ps of power, representing a 20-percent improvement from a non-common-rail unit. Maximum torque is also impressive at 30 kg-m, available at a considerably long range, from as low as 1400 to as high as 3400 rpm. These robust figures are the results of the new common-rail system's precise fuel injection and enhanced combustion chamber design. Another important feature of the new engine is the Swirl Control Valve Actuator, which vastly improves swirling motion during high and low engine speeds for an optimum mixture of air and fuel.

The huge amount of pressure inside the rail of the new engine guarantees the well-timed, proportionate and accurate delivery of fuel at any speed, thus enabling the engine to achieve a 15-percent improvement in fuel efficiency.

As for environment-friendliness, the 4JJ-1 I-TEQ has electronically controlled emission system that meets Euro-3 standards.

Further, the new mechanical features of the 4JJ-1 I-TEQ all work for a more silent operation with significantly less vibration. First, the multi-injection system lessens the jerking motion brought about by the sudden turning of the crankshaft. Second, the backlash eliminator keeps the gears in constant contact with one another. Third, the secondary balancer lessens the shock and noise created by the engine's sequenced alternating combustion. Fourth, the damper flywheel features a shock-absorbing mechanism, helping to minimize noise and vibration when the engine and the transmission come into contact. Lastly, the exhaust silencer plates act to redirect the noise produced by the combustion.

The 4JJ-1 I-TEQ is mated to either a five-speed manual transmission or a four-speed automatic transmission with overdrive, grade logic, direct electronic shift control, and power mode.

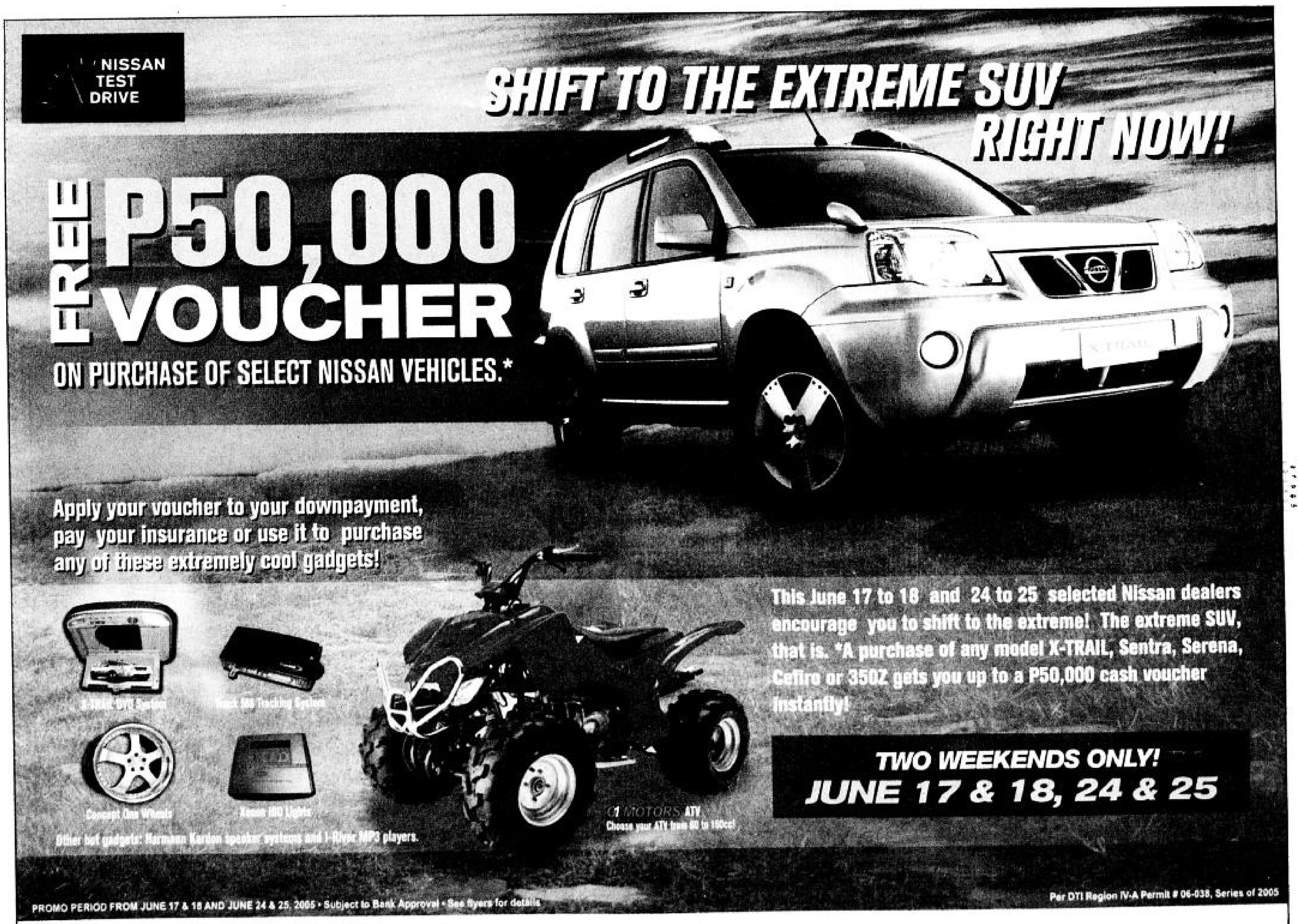
Another technological feature of the Alterra is its advanced suspension system. Called the Flex Ride move suspension, this system features independent double wishbones with torsion bar and gas-sealed, twin-tube multi piston shock absorbers in front and Flex Ride leaf springs in the rear.

As if the Alterra's styling and performance aren't already enough, Isuzu bestowed it with a generous and versatile passenger cabin. Accommodations boast seats in three rows that can be arranged 48 different ways. The front seats can be reclined 180 degrees, while the second-row seats can be adjusted individually to allow easy access to the third row. The middle seat of the second row can be folded as a utility tray or to make way for a walk-through alley to the third row. Third-row seats, meanwhile, are spacious and comfortable with a utility armrest on which books or bottles can be stacked.

More passenger convenience is provided by front, middle, and rear air-condition vents, conveniently integrated with the headlining; and five cabin lights on three sections with separate control switches.

Inside, the all-new Alterra is teeming with recreational appointments, including 11 speakers with tweeters, strategically installed in the vehicle interior, plus a subwoofer and an amplifier; a DVD head unit with a 5.1-channel digital decoder which can play DVD, VCD, CD, MP3, WMA and CD-R; theater-quality digital sound is available to provide the ultimate listening experience; lockable globe box with light; coat hook; map lamps with sunglass holder; second-row reading lamps; 12-volt accessory power socket; and numerous pockets and cup holders.

For safety and security, the Alterra is equipped with dual front airbags; ABS with electronic brake force distribution and gravity sensors; keyless entry with anti-theft immobilizer system; child-proof locks; and back-up sensors.



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Fix a flat at True Value

IT'S A scene right out of a horror movie. You're in a dark and remote highway, it's past midnight and your constant internal dialogue is "What if one of the tires got busted?" You're tearing yourself apart for not heeding your dad's advice to learn how to replace a flat tire when you heard that dreaded loud pop. The unthinkable has just happened. You have a flat tire and you don't know how to replace it. You're in the middle of nowhere. What now?

Daunting as it may seem, the above scenario is a possibility that motorists, particularly female drivers, have to reckon with at times. "Your car is an extension of your home, so you have to be prepared for every kind of emergency that might occur within its confines," advised home improvement expert and True Value marketing manager Lani Castaneda.

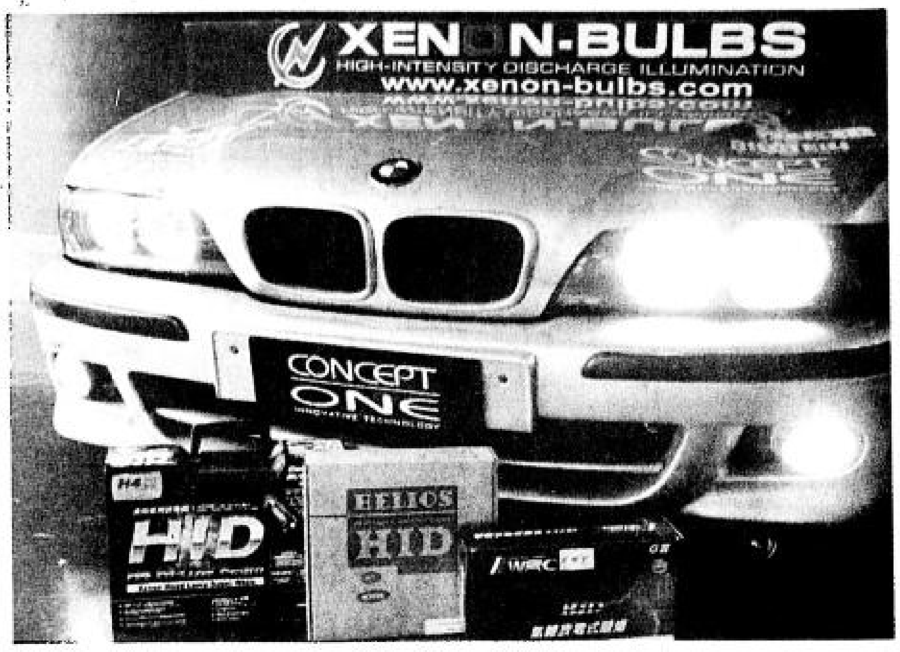
For the above scenario, Castaneda recommends Fix a Flat by Pennzoil. The product is perfect for women drivers because Fix a Flat can repair flat tires with no jack or other tools required. A Fix a Flat canister contains compressed air to inflate the flat tire and a rubber compound to seal its holes.

"The product is especially useful to women and elderly people who do not have the muscular power men have that are essential in handling this kind of road emergency," added Castaneda.

Fix a Flat works in easy foolproof seven steps and will make a marooned motorist move from point A to point B. It provides a fast and durable seal on most flats when time is of the essence.

Motorists can get Fix a Flat at True Value Home Center with branches located at Shangri-La Plaza, Park Square 1, Alabang Town Center, Power Plant Rockwell and Ayala Center, Cebu, A wide array of car care products are available at True Value, among them automotive tools, roadside safety and emergency kits, car covers, emission reducers, detailers, cleansers and miscellaneous waxes.

Innovative lighting by Xenon



SINCE most original or replacement halogen automotive bulbs are expensive, consumers are on the lookout for a dependable and reliable automotive lighting technology.

If you've had one too many replacement halogen bulbs for your car, maybe its time to try High Intensity Discharge (HiD) Xenon bulbs. This innovative lighting technology is growing in popularity due to its increased nighttime illumination and high quality.

Xenon bulbs are similar in performance to halogen bulbs, with slightly different criterias. Some of the benefits of Xenon bulbs include a longer life span than halogen light bulbs, they burn cooler, have no harmful UV rays, can be handled with bare hands and shines twice as bright as halogen bulbs. Many older cars came equipped with frosted tungsten sealed beam headlights and these can, at some expense, be converted to xenon to improve driving at night. Stock bulb headlights of modern cars can be replaced directly with Xenon HID replacement bulbs. These bulbs work at high performance ratios, which makes xenon an OEM equipment of high-end European and Japanese luxury cars.

Shown is a BMW 5 series equipped with a Xenon HID kit. HID kits are also available for cars, SUVs, AUVs and sport bikes.

Xenon HiD systems are locally distributed by Hummer Philippines Inc. For inquiries, call 713-1998/0917-8307832 or visit the Xenon showroom at 318 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City or log on to www.xenon-bulbs.com.

Honda named Gold Superbrand by Reader's Digest

ASIA'S most widely read magazine, Reader's Digest, recently awarded to Honda Cars Philippines the 2005 Gold Superbrand award, its 6th Superbrand since 1999. The much-coveted award was conferred to Honda as one of the top-performing brands in the Car Category for the Philippine market by readers of Reader's Digest. In 2004, Honda was entered in Reader's Digest Superbrand Hall of Fame after receiving its 5th award.

The Superbrand 2005 was a result of a survey-which is one of the most comprehensive polls in Asia-conducted among Reader's Digest patrons in six Asian markets: Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and Philippines. The respondents freely named their most-preferred brand for the 42 categories of products and services. These brands were rated according to quality, value, strong image, trustworthiness and understanding of customers needs.

This vote of confidence on the Honda brand is a manifestation of its continuing commitment to provide only the best quality cars and excellent after-sales service and customer care activities to its valued customers, which Honda fondly calls the "Honda family".

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of National Defense *(Armed Forces of the Philippines)* through the *General Appropriations Act* and *AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund* intends to apply the sum of *FOUR HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND PESOS* (PhP 447,360,000.00) being the *Approved Budget for the Contract* (ABC) to payment under the contract for the Supply and Installation of the *AFP Fixed Communication System (FCS) Project* (AFPMP-GHQ-09-001-04). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The DND/AFP now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Installation *(Engineering, Furnishing, Installing and Testing* [EFIT] and *Commissioning)* of the *Visayas-Bicol Communications System* (VBCS) and *Mindanao Microwave Communications System* (MMCS). Delivery of the GOODS is required within Two Hundred Forty (240) days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The following parties may participate: Sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, or combinations of any or all the above entities forming themselves into a joint venture to meet the eligibility requirements of the project and to undertake the project provided that they themselves are manufacturers and/or system integrators.
3. Bidding will be conducted through a *Two-Stage* open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary, pass/fail criteria as specified in the *Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184* (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the *"Government Procurement Reform Act,"* and is restricted to: Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, *and/or* to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Part II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the *Lowest Calculated Bid* (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the *Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder* (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *DND BAC Secretariat, AFP Modernization Project Management Office* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below, upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Forty Thousand Pesos* (Php 40,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash or cashiers check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DND-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 07, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. (local time) at Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before August 25, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on August 25, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Flr, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Registered bidders shall be required to visit and/or conduct survey on the proposed project sites starting on 15 July 2005.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or system integrators who wish to participate in the public bidding are required to apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate in, pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005.
11. The DND BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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CAR (M/T A/T) VANS (8-15P) T 9386198 4270344

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9206

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956•8957247

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

STAREX'05 MB100 9483535

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P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **PROVIDENCE SOLUTIONS CORPORATION** with office address at **Millennium Plaza, Makati Avenue, Bel-Air, Makati City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as a **New IT Export Service Firm in the field of Software Development** with project site at **same office address stated above** has been officially accepted on **June 15, 2005** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 15th day of June 2005.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – June 24, 2005)

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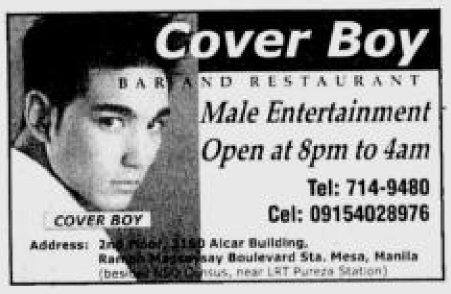

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 5315577

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Migrating to Canada or Australia, please visit www.b4landing.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby gieven that the estate of the late ABDON A. ILAGAN has been extra-judicially settled WITH WAIVER OF SHARE among his heirs per Doc No. 241, Page No. 50, Book No. VII, Series of 2005, before Atty. Domingo G. Losa, Notary Public, Paranaque City.
(PDI-June 24, July 1 & 8, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late THELMA N. PAGTAKHAN was extrajudicially settled on June 21, 2005 per Doc. No. 878, Page No. 64, Book No. 10, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty. Rafael N. Agulos of Mandaluyong City.
(PDI - June 24, July 1 & 8, 2005)

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/09206262141

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Ombudsman Building, Agham Road, North Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

LOT A : 150 UNITS STEEL FILING CABINET, 4 drawers, vertical, with built-in handle (lateral type) gauge 20, plain finished w/ welded bar lock, gray color

LOT B : 150 UNITS JUNIOR EXECUTIVE TABLE
Size: 1600mm x 700mm x 740mm, melamine
150 UNITS JUNIOR EXECUTIVE CHAIR, ergonomics with high back rest, fabric, gray color

The **OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**, through its allotted budget under its authorized appropriation for Office Equipment, Furniture and Fixtures account under Republic Act No. 9336, otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act of 2005, intends to apply the sum of **ONE MILLION FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P1,050,000.00)** for LOT A and of **ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P1,950,000.00)** for LOT B, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"LOT A : 150 UNITS STEEL FILING CABINET, 4 drawers, vertical, with built-in handle (lateral type) gauge 20, plain finished w/ welded bar lock, gray color; AND LOT B: 150 UNITS JUNIOR EXECUTIVE TABLE, Size: 1600mm x 700mm x 740mm, melamine, AND 150 UNITS JUNIOR EXECUTIVE CHAIR, ergonomics with high back rest, fabric, gray color."** Bids received in excess of the respective ABCs shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for **"LOT A : 150 UNITS STEEL FILING CABINET, 4 drawers, vertical, with built-in handle (lateral type) gauge 20, plain finished w/ welded bar lock, gray color; AND LOT B : 150 UNITS JUNIOR EXECUTIVE TABLE, Size: 1600mm x 700mm x 740mm, melamine, AND 150 UNITS JUNIOR EXECUTIVE CHAIR, ergonomics with high back rest, fabric, gray color."** Delivery of the goods is required within the period as prescribed in the bidding documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below beginning **July 7, 2005**, from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** for LOT A and/or **Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)** for LOT B.

The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidders or his authorized representative.

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **July 6, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the following address: GSD Conference Room, 2/F Office of the Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, North Triangle, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before **9:30 a.m. of July 27, 2005.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check and in an amount of **Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (P26,250.00)** for LOT A and/or **Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (P48,750.00)** for LOT B or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **July 27, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.**, GSD Conference Room, 2/F Office of the Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, North Triangle, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Lot A will be opened first followed by LOT B.

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ERNESTO M. NOCOS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Office of the Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road
North Triangle, Quezon City
926-9032 local 221 / 926-8763 / 929-3759
E-mail: cas@ombudsman.gov.ph
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO M. NOCOS**
Assistant Ombudsman, PACPO

(PDI – June 24, 2005)

ASSET DISPOSAL PROJECT
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Dillman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"
FOR THE SALE OF NPC TUGBOAT NO. 2 & 3

DATE OF BIDDING: July 12, 2005

The National Power Corporation will receive sealed bids on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the assets described below:

ITEM DESCRIPTION		Min. Bid Price
LOT 1: One (1) unit Unused Tugboat, 3000 PS (Tugboat No. 3)		P31,335,000.00
Length (Overall, without rubber fender/sheat)	: 33.30 meter (approx.)	
Breadth (molded)	: 9.20 meter	
Depth (molded)	: 3.90 meter	
Designed Load Draught (molded)	: 2.90 meter	
Gross Tonnage (international)	: 310.00 tons	
Loading Capacity	: 80.00 tons (approx.)	
MAIN DIESEL ENGINES		
Make	: Mitsubishi	
No. of Units	: 2 units	
No. of Cylinder	: 6 cylinders	
Max. Continuous Output	: 1500 PS @1150 rpm	
Normal Output	: 1350 PS @ 1110 rpm	
Acquired	: 1998	
Location	: Naga, Cebu	
LOT 2: One (1) unit Tugboat (Tugboat No. 2)		P31,406,500.00
Length (Overall)	: 30.40 meters	
Beam (molded)	: 7.40 meters	
Draft Maximum	2.30 meters	
Gross Tonnage	: 180 tons	
Main Diesel Engine, 2 units	: Detroit 16V-92N 626 PS @ 1800 rpm	
Generator Engine, 2 Units	: Detroit, Type 4-71N 70KW @ 1800 rpm	
Rated Output	: 1,200 HP	
Manufacturer.	: President Marine	
Date Manufactured	: 1994	
Location	: Naga, Cebu	

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00)** at the Materials Management Department office, Ground Floor, Building No. 1, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

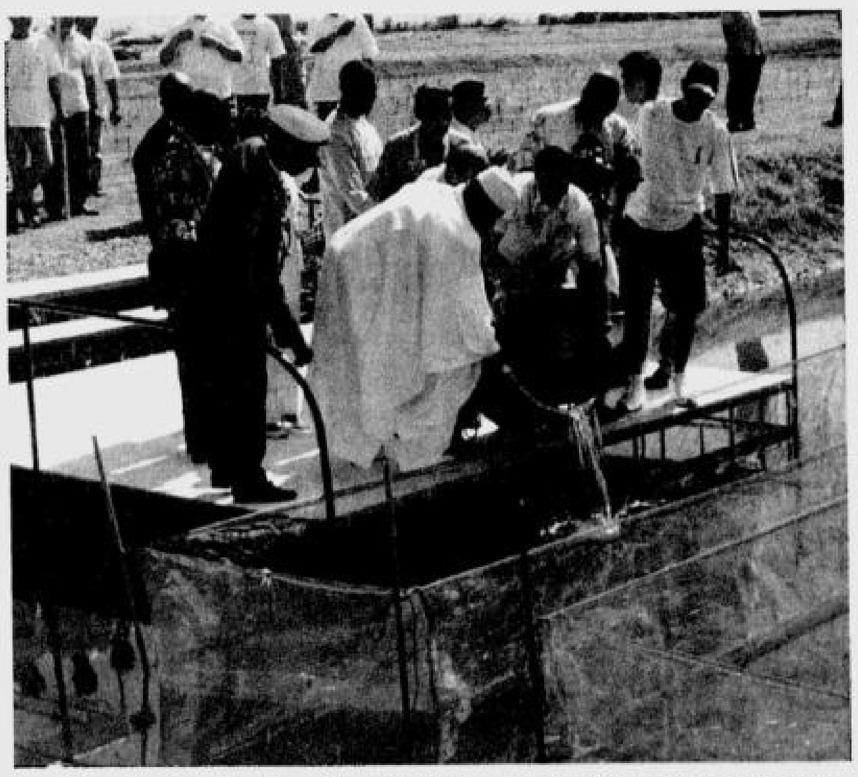
Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives at **10:00 a.m. on July 12, 2005** at the NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond (Cash or Manager's Check only) of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of bid. The Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation have concurred with the bidding process and clearance for the disposal was duly approved.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required informality, and to accept such bids that is most advantageous to the Government.

Issuance of bidding documents is on **June 20, 2005 to July 6, 2005**. A Pre-bid conference will be conducted at **2:00 p.m. on July 6, 2005** at the Pahiyas Room, NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Additional information may be obtained from Asset Disposal Project office at telephone nos. 922-3970, and 921-3541 loc. 5562, or e-mail us at *lcarabelo@napocor.gov.ph.*

(Sgd.) **LEVI C. ARABELO**
Chairman, Task Force for the Disposal of Tugboats 2 & 3

Note: This advertisement is also posted in our website: hipp://www.napocor.gov.ph
(PDI - June 20, 22 & 24, 2005)



Republic of Gambia President Yahyah A.J.J. Jammeh, with DA secretary Arthur C. Yap led ceremonial stacking of Genetically Modified Tilapia breeders in a pond during the official visit of the Gambian President at the BFAR-National Freshwater Fisheries Research and Training Center at CLSU compound in Munoz, Nueva Ecija, held June 22. The President expressed interest in tilapia culture that they scheduled an itenerary to the tilapia research center. Others in photo are BFAR director, Malcolm Sarmiento and NFFTC chief, Melchor Tayamen, partly hidden.

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-LOGMMSD 200506-022

The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC) invites interested chemical companies and qualified bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of Chemicals, Materials, Tools and Equipment including Supervision and Services in the Chemical Water Treatment of Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant Complex (TGPP) covering the following:

Project No.	Coverage	Program	Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
LOGMMSD 200506-022	Plant A – Unit 2	REGULAR	P5,200,000.00 for one (1) year

Regular Program is extended to all Chemical Companies/Suppliers/Contractors that are:

a. Actively registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
b. Duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), in case of Cooperatives;
c. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships;
d. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
e. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
f. Entities forming themselves into a joint venture that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for this particular contract provided, however that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%).

In addition, application for Regular Program is open to Chemical Companies/Suppliers/Contractors whose water treatment programs for at least three (3) consecutive evaluation period are certified as Satisfactory by the Sr. Plant Manager of TGPP and Chemical Companies/Suppliers/Contractors who are exclusive distributors of brand of chemical products used in programs are already tested and certified successful by the TGPP Manager.

The value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices, completed within three (3) to five (5) years immediately preceding the eligibility screening, and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least 50% of the approved budget for the contract to be bid. Bidding will be conducted using the non discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Act".

Issuance of Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be from June 24, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Materials Management Services Division, MMD Ground Floor Bldg., National Power Corporation, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of:

1. An application addressed to THE CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee;
2. Certified True copy of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate; and
3. Payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).

All additional information shall be furnished upon request at the address given above or at Tel. No. (02) 924-5477.

Pre bid Conference will be on July 8, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at Kañao Function Room, NPC Bldg. 1, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission and opening of eligibility and bid proposals shall be on July 21, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at Moriones Function Room, NPC Bldg. 1, Diliman, Quezon City.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bids to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids without hereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD/MMD

(PDI - June 24 & July 1, 2005)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
Website: www.info.com.ph/~afpmod • Email: pid@info.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the shipment of two (2) Patrol Killer Medium (PKM) Wildcat gunboats of the Philippine Navy from Chinhae Naval Base, Jinhae, Busan, South Korea to Manila South Harbor Anchorage Area, Manila, Philippines. It has an approved budget of **NINETEEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (Php 19,250,000.00)**, chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 Funds.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the AFP Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the bid documents at the above address from **June 17 until June 30, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

A complete set of bid documents may be purchased at the above address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)*. The mode of payment will be through *cash/cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.* The bid documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative. Representatives, however, are required to present a Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the prospective bidder before the bid documents are released and before any other transactions in connection therewith is entertained.

Interested bidders shall be allowed to inspect the two (2) PKM Gunboats at the Chinhae Naval Base, Jinhae, Busan, South Korea upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of bids.

The AFP will hold a Pre-bid Conference to all interested parties on **June 30, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**, at the Silid Panday Pira, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The deadline for the submission of bids shall be at **8:30 a.m. of July 18, 2005**. All bids must be accompanied with a Bid Security in any of the acceptable forms and its corresponding amount as prescribed in Section II of the bid documents, ITB. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall immediately follow at exactly 9:00 a.m. in the presence of the bidders, or their representatives, who choose to attend the proceedings at Silid Panday Pira, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City together with some of the observers who will be invited.

The AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, annul the bidding process, or reject all bids at any time before the contract is awarded, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **RADM JORGE G NECESITO AFP**
Chairman, AFP Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 18 & 24, 2005)

VISIT US AT: www.jobmarketonline.com

NORTHRAIL

North Luzon Railways Corporation

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The North Luzon Railways Corporation (NorthRail) invites interested Survey Consultants to submit Application for Eligibility, and subsequently to Bid, if considered eligible, for the Ground Relocation and Boundary Verification Survey, Aerial Photogrammetry including Digital Mapping of the Philippine National Railway (PNR) Right-of-Way (ROW), Section 2- Phase 1 (Malolos to Clark SEZ, Pampanga Section) of the NorthRail Project.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **PhP 8,969,606.20.** All bids higher than the said ABC shall be rejected outright. All bids equal to or lower than the ABC shall be evaluated based on the Bidder's technical and financial proposals and the approved evaluation criteria set by the SPBAC. The Highest Rated Bidder shall be post-qualified before an award is made.

For those interested, Application Forms for Eligibility will be available for issuance on July 4-5, 2005 payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)** and submission fo a **Letter of Intent** addressed to:

The Chairperson
Special Procurement, Bids and Award Committee
North Luzon Railways Corporation
2F Old Officers Clubhouse, JUSMAG Area
Philippine Army Recreation Center
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility shall be submitted on or before 5:00 PM of **12 July 2005** at the address mentioned above. Applications for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria. Only bidders found eligible or has been declared "Passed" will be invited to participate in the bidding.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulati9ons.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the above, you may get in touch with Engr. Jun Rulona, head of the Technical Working Group at Office telephone numbers 09178549254 and 09209606407.

NorthRail reserves the right to reject or accept any applications; and to annul or cancel the entire process, or reject all applications, as it may deem proper without incurring any liability to the affected applicants.

(Sgd.) **BENJAMIN L. PALOMIQUE, JR.**
Chairman, SPBAC

(PDI--June 18 & 24, 2005)

OBITUARIES

With love and gratitude in
our hearts we remember...

FELISA "Nene" HERNANDEZ HILARIO

(January 1, 1910 – June 24, 2004)
on her 1st Death Anniversary

Daily masses at 6:00 a.m. have been offered until June 30, 2005 at the St. Martin de Porres Parish Church
United Hills Village, Parañaque City

Daughter **Eden** and husband **Nony Relova**

Grandchildren:
Sylvia & Elis Maghirang
Cecile & Johann Fernandez
Melissa Relova

Great Grandchildren:
Clann, Mitcee, Panch & Luigi Maghirang
Trixie, Adrian & Sam Fernandez

CYNTHIA DE JESUS

Cynthia, daughter of the late Rolando de Jesus, went home to be with our Lord on June 22, 2005 at the age of 44.

She left behind her bereaved mother, **Lory de Jesus**, brothers and sisters **Ricky, Cecile Joy** and **Mike David, Raymond, Romulus** and **Joyce**; and aunts **Ester Chavez** and **Patricia Vance**.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes. Cremation will be on Sunday, June 26, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

MESSAGE OF THANKS
WE, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

IDA MACEDA ABAD

WHO PASSED AWAY IN THE GRACE OF OUR LORD
ON JUNE 15, 2005
WISH TO EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE
AND SINCEREST APPRECIATION
TO ALL THOSE WHO OFFERED MASSES AND PRAYERS,
SENT FLOWERS AND MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY
AND WHO IN COUNTLESS WAYS,
CONDOLED WITH US AND COMFORTED US
IN OUR HOUR OF BEREAVEMENT.

Josefina L. Guerra

of Pandacan, Manila and Bulacan, Bulacan

joined her Creator on June 21, 2005 at the age of 69.

Her family, brother **Narding & Resty** and their children **Terry, Gladys & Boy, Glowen,** and **Gleo**; brother **Totoy & Auring** and their children **Gary & Dorothy, Jojo & Rhoda, Jun, Cherry,** and **Amonette** and their grandchildren **Carl Joseph, Sherwin, Joshua,** and **Elyza Janelle**; and nephew **Nitoy & Dora** and their daughter **Louella**; and nephew **Vic** request your prayers for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel IV of Loyola Memorial Chapel, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 26, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

MALABED FUNERAL SERVICES

Six Years Ago Today

Our Beloved Mama

MARIA KOO TAN

Joined the Lord in Eternal Rest

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated in her memory and that of our **Papa, Salvador Tan Siong Chang**, today at the following churches:

Catarman Cathedral	5:00 AM
Mary, The Queen (Greenhills)	6:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Jose (Greenhills)	7:15 AM
Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord, Megamall	12:15 NN
Sanctuario del Santo Cristo, Blumentritt	7:30 PM
St. Francis Church (Mandaluyong)	6:00 PM

Thank you once again for your prayers and well wishes.

Edward, Robert and **Jenny, Ronnie** and **Marge, Renan** and **Iris**
Alex and **Milly, Stanley** and **Jen, Sandy** and **Steve**
Eddie and **Noah, Doy, Square** and **Kaye** and **Candice**
Aida and **Albert (Simtoco), Arvin** and **Malou, Archie** and **Aris**
Tommy and **Marge, Bernice, Adrian** and **Melissa**
Eday and **Boy (Gustilo)** and **Gail**
Nonoy and **Grace, Trisha, Felicity, Valerie, Noynoy** and **Borgy**
and great grandchildren.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley,
I feel no harm, For you are at my side,
your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

Apolonio "Pol" S. Isip

and

Leticia S. Isip-Kenyon

of Luakan, Dinalupihan, Bataan

Peacefully joined their Creator on June 13 and June 10, 2005, respectively, in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Pol's loving family – wife Merlie; sons Dennis, Dave, Daniel and daughters Dianne and Donna – and their sisters, brothers, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, and other relatives request the readers to pray for the repose of their souls and their eternal happiness.

Their remains will arrive in the Philippines on June 24, 2005 and will lie in state at the Isip Residence in Luakan, Dinalupihan, Bataan.

Interment will be on June 26, 2005 (Sunday) at 1:00 p.m. at the Dinalupihan New Cemetery.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Mauro de Guzman Calaguio

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 21, 2005 at the age of 83.

A loving husband to **Felicing**, responsible father to his children and children-in-law, **Perla & Jess, Myrna & Max** (†), **Manny & Jo, Jun & Ining, Claro, Angel, Sal & Badette** and a sweet **"Papa"** to his grandchildren **Missy, Francis, Gerry & Girlie, Vanessa, Meg, Pat, Mark, Michelle, CJ, Charlene, Princess & Mariano, King, Jen-jen & George, Christian & Merald, Joan & Patrick, Dongie, Thea** and great grandchildren, **Maxi, Tyler, Kurt, Kyle, Cole, Tyrell Xavier**.

His body lies in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-B), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on June 25, 2005.

Interment will be at Sta. Barbara Cemetery, date will be announced later.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

REF. No. CL-05-06-0171

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *City Government of Zamboanga*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Contract	Location / Office	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration / P.R. No.	Delivery Period
1. Motor Vehicles	CMO	Passenger Type, 660 cc, 4WD	P 4,000,000.00	100-05-04-0612	45 w.d.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 24, 2005 to July 6, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at City Budget Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City	June 25, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	July 7, 2005
4. Bid Evaluation	July 7, 2005
5. Post-qualification	July 8, 2005
6. Notice of Award	July 13, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,200 to the City Treasurer.

The City Government of Zamboanga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA SAN AGUSTIN GARA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 24 & 30, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) III
A. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) - D : Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-18-2004; SG-28
B. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) - E : Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-19-2004; SG-28

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Five (5) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: Twenty four (24) hours of relevant training; Eligibility RA 1080 (BAR)*

Applicants should submit within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1"x1" Picture (colored);
4) **Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) **Transcript of Records;
6) **Certificates of Seminars/Trainings attended;
7) **Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) **Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

This is a republication in part of the Bulletin of Vacant Positions published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on March 18, 2005 in view of the conversion of the above positions from Non-Managerial to Managerial positions pursuant to OMB Resolution No. 05-04 dated March 21, 2005.

*Subject to final outcome of Ombudsman vs. CSC (G.R. 159940)

**Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies

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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE SALE OF VARIOUS SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES/ ASSETS WITHIN THE FRANCHISE AREA OF BOHOL I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BOHECO I)

ERC CASE NO. 2005-227 MC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO),
Applicant.
x-------------------------------------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant National Transmission Corporation on **April 28, 2005** of an application for approval of the sale to Bohol I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO I) of various sub-transmission lines/assets located within the latter's franchise area, docketed as ERC Case No. 2005-227 MC.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on **July 6, 2005** at ten o'clock (10:00 AM) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**, Chairman, and the Honorable **JESUS N. ALCORDO** and **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN**, Commissioners, **Energy Regulatory Commission**, this 23rd day of May, 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **MARIA TERESA R. CASTAÑEDA**
Executive Director III

(PDI - June 24, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE SALE OF VARIOUS SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES/ ASSETS WITHIN THE FRANCHISE AREA OF TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (TARELCO II)

ERC CASE NO. 2005-226MC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO),
Applicant.
x-------------------------------------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) on April 28, 2005 of an application for the approval of the sale to Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II) of various sub-transmission lines/ assets located within the latter's franchise area.

The Commission has set the said application for hearing on **June 30, 2005** at two o'clock in the afternoon **(2:00 p.m.)** at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records field with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**, Chairman, and the Honorable **JESUS N. ALCORDO** and **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN**, Commissioners, **Energy Regulatory Commission**, this 23rd day of May, 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **MARIA TERESA A. R. CASTAÑEDA**
Executive Director III

(PDI - June 24, 2005)

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HOLY CROSS
DASMARIÑAS
CEBU
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(632) 893-8374 to 77
BULACAN

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Ma. Cristina 'Sandy' Zosa Romualdez

peacefully joined her Creator on June 22, 2005

Her loving family: husband **Louie**, children **Reena**, **Joselu** and **Ali**; parents **Ramon** (†) and **Nati** (†), parents-in-law **Francisco** (†) and **Milagros**; brothers and sisters **Butch**, **Elena** (†), **Mike**, **Chiquito**, **Gabby** and **Jeangay**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. The Funeral Mass will be held on Sunday, June 26, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.

Cremation will follow at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City at 6:00 p.m.

In Loving Memory
of our Dearly Beloved

Judge MINERVA MALALUAN-EXCHAURE

A.B. BA (SBC, Batangas City), Ll.B. (U.S.T.)
NFA, Quezon City; PAO, Batangas City; MTCC Br. 2, Batangas City

of BATANGAS CITY, BATANGAS

Born : 17 November 1952
Died : 21 June 2005

who peacefully joined our Creator
and now rests in His goodness and grace.

Her husband, **ATTY. NILO EXCHAURE**; her children, **NEIL MERVIN** and **IRIS KATRINE**; her mother, **FLORENCIA**; her sisters and brothers-in-law, **DORY** and **MANNY ESPINA**, and **JING** and **NANING HERNANDEZ**; her brother and sister-in-law, **NEPO** and **JOY MALALUAN**; her nieces and nephews, **DARYL**, **NOEL**, **EMMAN**, **THEA**, **GIO** and **BIANCA**; her relatives, in-laws, friends and colleagues, request kind readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Exchaure Residence, Annalyn Subdivision, Alangilan, Batangas City. Final Mass and interment will be on **Saturday, 25 June 2005, 3 p.m.**, at the **Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Batangas City.**

"My own eyes have seen the salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of every people, a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel."
Luke 2:30-32

Lovingly remembered, so sadly missed...

GRISELDA "Baby" LIMBO AGANON

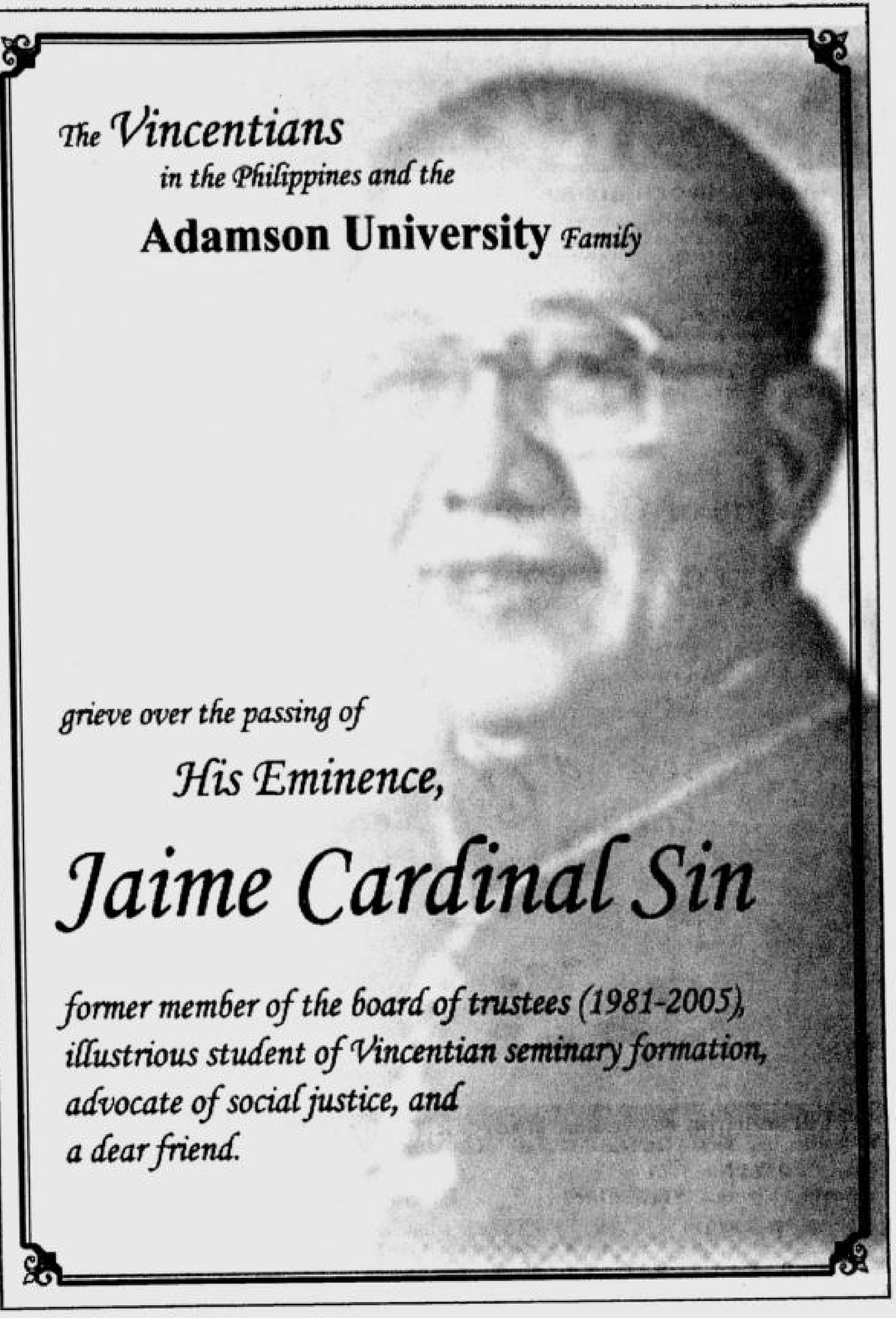
Peacefully rest in the infinite loving warmth of our Lord's embrace
on June 17, 2005 at the age of 76
at Stanford Hospital in San Francisco, USA.

She will leave a void in the hearts of her loving husband **Dominador** and children **Jessica & Dodie**, **Terry & Ed**, **Malou & Leonard**, **Bubu & Fifa**, **Titong & Cecille**, **Peter**, **Cesar & Grace**; her grandchildren **Sonny**, **Jeffrey**, **Teddy Boy**, **Cheska**, **Tintin**, **Charlene**, **Nicole**, **Katrina**, **Sarita**, **Gino**, **Patricia**, **Luigi**, **Mikee & Gabby**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria dela Strada Chapel, Katipunan Road, Q.C. beginning Friday, June 24. Masses will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24 and at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 25.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, June 26, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the main church. Interment will follow at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16



The Vincentians
in the Philippines and the
Adamson University *Family*

grieve over the passing of

His Eminence,

Jaime Cardinal Sin

former member of the board of trustees (1981-2005),
illustrious student of Vincentian seminary formation,
advocate of social justice, and
a dear friend.

Our Beloved

CARMELITO "BENJIE" DE LEON MONTECILLO

Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 23, 2005 at the age of 49.

His wife **Rosario "Charito"** and son **Joseph Anthony**; his parents, **Joselito B. Montecillo, DMD & Teresita De Leon**; siblings, **Gigi** and wife **Honey**, **Cynthia** and husband **Brian**, **Joel** (†), **Dondi** and **Kate**, **Ricky** and wife **Tina**, **Dina** and husband **Steve**, and **Chuck** and wife **Maimai**; cousins; uncles and aunts; nephews and nieces and other relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla C at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, 1354 C. Raymundo Ave. cor. Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be on June 28, 2005 (Tuesday) at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

We accept Classified advertisements
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in Visayas
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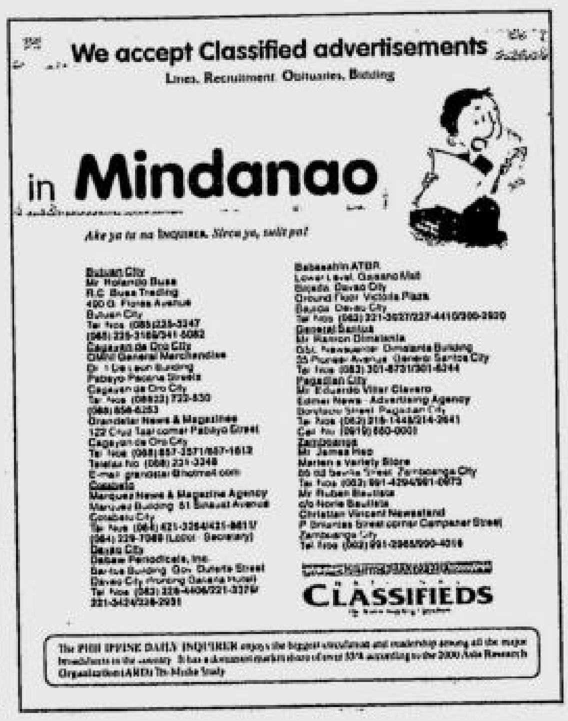
We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding
in Mindanao
CLASSIFIEDS

Hot Wheels
MATCH

HOT WHEELS ENDURO CHALLENGE

HOT WHEELS recently concluded the elimination round of the Scorpion Sting Enduro Challenge held at Toy Kingdom, SM Megamall. The Hot Wheels Scorpion Sting Enduro Challenge is open for kids aged 4 and above. The grand finals is scheduled on June 25 at SM Megamall Atrium A and will feature a huge 'Desert Storm' Scorpion track plus lots of fun games and pocket activities. Shown are Richwell Trading Corp brand manager for Hot Wheels Adrian Justiniano (center) and Department of Trade and Industry NCR Representative Ben Viloria (left) posing with the senior finalists of the elimination round. For more information, log on to www.hotwheels.com or call Richwell Trading Corp at 732-5141 to 47.

Power Weddings @ The Rockwell Tent
June 25 & 2005
Joya at Rockwell
VS &F Catering
Richel Mascariñas Digital Photography

BRIDAL EVENT CONTRACT SIGNING

VS&F Classic Food International and Richel Mascariñas Photography recently signed a contract with Angel's Wink Production as main sponsors for its upcoming bridal event. Angels' Wink is the organizer of 'Power Weddings--The Bridal Event' that will be held on June 25 and 26 at the New Rockwell Tent right beside Powerplant Mall. Other sponsors are SeaAir, Pearl of the Pacific Boracay and Joya at Rockwell. Shown, from left, are: Cesar 'Ces' Aglipay of Angel's Wink Production; Tess Mascariñas of Richel Mascariñas Photography; Josie Abesamis of VS&F, and; wedding singer Paulo Clemente, who will be the host of the event. Interested parties can call 546-9477 or 541-8397, or log on to www.angelswink.net/powerweddings.

Lowe wins 2004 ad of the year

LOWE Manila dominated the ad of the year category for television in the 4As Creative Guild Awards 2004 held Monday, June 7. Its "Fairy" TV commercial for Fita Biscuits ran off with the plum Gold prize while its "Soldiers" TV commercial for the same brand won the Bronze. Both these ads likewise performed well in international advertising competitions with "Fairy" winning a Bronze in the 2003 Adfest in Thailand and "Soldiers" achieving finalist status in the same competition in 2004. Fita is a product of Monde MY San.

"These wins are a combined effort of both agency and client. Without an enabling client, it is difficult for an agency to do great work", says Raul Castro, VP-executive creative director of Lowe.

The Ad of the Year awards was a fitting culmination to the very first Creative Summit, a gathering of this country's best creative ad minds to discuss what it would take for Philippine creativity to take its rightful place in the world stage. As Bing Beltran, incoming president of the Guild said, "The Ad of the Year awards is proof positive that our passion for creative excellence burns fiercely and an indication that we haven't lost our drive to make our presence felt internationally."

Lowe Manila is part of Lowe Worldwide & Partners, a multinational advertising agency with 160 offices in 84 countries. It is among the Philippines' top 5 advertising agencies.

League of Corporate Foundations *presents*

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

July 4-6
Westin Philippine Plaza

EXPO 2005

Beyond Giving
Business Solutions To Social Problems

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY ONE - JULY 4
Beyond Giving... INTEGRATING

8:00 am - **REGISTRATION**

9:00 am - **OPENING of EXHIBITS**
OPENING CEREMONIES
(By Invitation only)
Global Perspective: Louis Willem "TEX" Gunning, Group Vice-President – Southeast Asia & Australasia, Unilever Asia Pte. Ltd.
National Perspective: Jose Antonio Aboitiz, Chief Financial Officer, Aboitiz Food Group

12:30 pm **LUNCHEON & PLENARY** by the Ayala Group of Companies
(By Invitation only)
Speaker: **Gerardo Ablaza Jr.,** President, Globe Telecom, Inc.

2:00 – 3:30 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

CS 1: Bringing CSR into the Boardroom: The Role of the CEO in Determining a Company's Social Agenda • *Panel Discussion:* **Ramon del Rosario Jr.,** President, Phinma, Inc. ; **Warner Manning,** CEO, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; **Pacita Juan,** CEO, Figaro Coffee Co.

CS 2: Making CSR an Integral Part of the Corporation's Culture • *Panel Discussion:* **Rosario Ventura,** Corporate Responsibility Manager, Asia, Intel Technology Philippines; **Leonisa dela Llana,** FVP & Head, HR & Corporate Services, Meralco; **Eve Lwembe,** National Volunteering Development Officer, VSO Jitolee, Kenya

CS 3: Prosperity at the Bottom-of-the-Pyramid • *Speaker:* **Prof. Tommy Lopez,** AIM Center for Entrepreneurship • *Reactor:* **Emma-Lim Sandrino,** Executive Director, Foundation for Sustainable Society

4:00 pm **AFTERNOON PLENARY: Integrating CSR into the Core Business: Stand for Something ...or Stand for Nothing** • *Speaker:* **Jude Mannion,** Founder & CEO, Robin Hood Foundation, New Zealand

5:00 pm **COCKTAILS** co-presented by Microsoft Philippines and LCF

DAY TWO - JULY 5
Beyond Giving... ENRICHING

9:00 am **MORNING PLENARY 1: Looking into Business Solutions to Public Education Problems**
Business Sector Initiatives in Education: Aniceto Sobrepeña, EVP & Executive Director, Metrobank Foundation • **Business & Education: Unleashing New Value in Education through Corporate Philanthropy & Public-Private Partnership: Usec. Juan Miguel Luz,** Department of Education

10:20 am **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
Introduction to the Concurrent Sessions: **Prof. Ernesto Garilao,** Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Graduate School of Business/Executive Director, AIM-Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides
CS 1: ICT Solutions *Panel Discussion:* **GILAS** or Gearing Up Internet Literacy & Access for Students; **Partners in Learning** by Microsoft, PBSP and Learn.ph; and **Innove** for Connectivity of Schools
CS 2: Business Solutions Case Presentations *Panel Discussion:* Nokia, Phinma School, and Intel People's PC
CS 3: Using Business Expertise Case Presentations *Panel Discussion:* Electricity in Schools by **Meralco; Convergys;** and **Ronald McDonald House Charities**

11:30 am **MORNING PLENARY 2: Toward System-wide Solutions to Educational Problems**

12:00 pm **STORYBOOKS TURN-OVER CEREMONY**
Response from Department of Education: **Sec. Florencio Abad**

12:30 pm **LUNCHEON & PLENARY: Business Solutions to Social Problems** by Mirant Philippines and The World Bank *(By Invitation only)* • *Speakers:* **Joachim Von Amsberg,** Country Director, World Bank Office, Manila, **Sec. Raphael Lotilla,** Department of Energy *(invited)*

2:00 – 3:30 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
CS 1: Business Solutions Addressing Health Issues of Public Schools & the Community by the LCF Health Committee • *Speakers:* **Dr. Cynthia Cuayo-Julco,** Chair, CSR Committee on Community Outreach, Manila Doctors Hospital; **Mao Navoa,** Associate Director, Disease Management, Pfizer, Inc.; **Alberto Lim,** President, Ten Knots Development Corp.
CS 2: Business Solutions to Environmental Problems by the LCF Environment Committee • *Speakers:* former DENR Sec. **Elisea Gozun,** Chair, Earth Day Network Philippines, **Lisa Antonio,** President, Philippine Business for the Environment; **Jess Reyes,** AVP-Environment, Safety & Health, Nestle Philippines; **Tony Casaclang,** President, Association of Food Chains
CS 3: Developing Socially Responsible Youth Business Leaders by the LCF Enterprise Development Committee • *Speakers:* **Nilo Cruz,** President, Junior Achievement of the Philippines; **Dr. Conrado Iñigo,** Chairman Emeritus, Philippine Council of Deans and Educators in Business

4:30 pm **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT** *(By Invitation only)*

DAY THREE - JULY 6
Beyond Giving... SUSTAINING

9:00 am **MORNING PLENARY: Sustaining Business Action to Achieve the MDGs: Can a decade make a difference?** • *Speakers:* **Sec. Romulo Neri,** Director-General, NEDA ; **Manuel Pangilinan,** Chair, PBSP ; **Pedro Roxas,** Chair, CADP Group Corporation; and **Allen Hammond,** UNDP New York *(invited)*

11:00 am **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
CS 1: Market-Driven Scholarship Program: The Toyota Experience and **Holcim Philippines' Galing Mason: Building Solid Foundations for our Communities Program** • *Speakers:* **Ramon Ventura Jr.,** Project Officer, Toyota Foundation; **Zita Diez,** CSR & Communications Head, Holcim Philippines
CS 2: Procter & Gamble Philippines • *Speaker:* **Junie Luntian,** Senior Counsel & External Relations – Philippines & Vietnam, Procter & Gamble Philippines
CS 3: Leveraging Core Competencies – The Vietnam Push Cart Program • *Speaker:* **Stuart Hawkins,** Public Affairs Manager, Coca-Cola Asia, Eurasia, & Middle East
CS 4: The Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP) SMART Case • *Speaker:* **Ramon Isberto,** Head of Public Affairs, Smart Communications

12:30 pm **LUNCHEON & PLENARY:** *(By Invitation only)* **Philippine Government's Blueprint on Entrepreneurship**

2:00 – 3:00 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
CS 1: Communicating CSR • *Speaker:* **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez,** President, Philippine Daily Inquirer
CS 2: Measuring the Impact of CSR Programs (Global Framework) • *Speaker:* **Ma. Divina de Leon,** Social Development Manager, Pilipinas Shell Foundation

3:00 – 4:30 pm **CSR WORKSHOP: De-Constructing CSR** • *Speaker:* **Jude Mannion,** Founder & CEO, Robin Hood Foundation, New Zealand

4:30 pm **INTEGRATION & CLOSING CEREMONIES**
Speaker: **Victoria Garchitorena,** Chair, League of Corporate Foundations and President, Ayala Foundation

Strategic Partner MIRANT
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Institutional Partners The World Bank • UNDP
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Organizing Partners DLSU-College of St. Benilde • Sarmiento Foundation • Toyota Foundation • Westin Philippine Plaza • TeamAsia • Effie Nery Garcia and AdSystems

BITS Clips

Win back PayLite purchases

GET A chance to win back your PayLite purchase and enjoy great value for money when you shop for appliances at Abenson with "Citibank's Charge for Free" raffle. Simply shop at any Abenson store from now until July 17 and use your Citibank credit card's PayLite feature for your purchases of at least P3,000. Drop your PayLite sales slips in drop boxes located in the Abenson store where you made your transaction and get a chance to win back your PayLite purchase up to a maximum of P100,000. Citibank cardholders can also take advantage of 0-percent installment offers for selected appliances, and affordable monthly add-on rates for other items in the store. First draw is on June 25. Call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 for details.

Seminars on food business

MB&G/ProActive is now accepting reservations for the Managing a Restaurant/Canteen module slated for June 27 to July 1. Module sessions are to be held from 1 to 5 p.m. at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations are currently being accepted. For details, call Manu Ofiaza at 687-1787 or 0915-4315375. MB&G ProActive has been in the business of training foodservice executives and hospitality business owners since 1989.

Search for fastest driller

GLOBAL power tool manufacturer Black and Decker recently announced the start of its Black and Decker Challenge III, a search for the country's fastest driller. The challenge is to drill five screws into hardwood as fast as possible using a Black and Decker CD1202K Cordless Drill. Now on its 3rd year, the Black and Decker Challenge is open to individuals 18 years old and above who have purchased at least P1,000 worth of Black and Decker products (single or accumulated) at any ACE Hardware or SM Hardware Workshop from May 21 to June 25. The next preliminary challenge will be held at the entrance of ACE Fairview on June 25, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Three of the fastest drillers will be chosen and will battle it out on June 26 at ACE Hardware Fairview. The record to beat is 10:48 seconds set by Roy Gelvezon in 2003.

Andrean '78 retro show

GRADUATES of Saint Andrew's School of Parañaque Batch 1978, on its silver jubilee reunion, will host a retro show with live bands, dinner, photo gallery, raffle prizes and surprise celebrities titled "Ang Pagbabalik ni Andoy" on Dec 5 at 7 p.m. at the school campus gym. Alumni are all invited to witness the turnover of the official school website. Tickets are sold at P500, available at St. Andrew's Alumni Office. Call Ms Pompa at 826-2129 or Sam Lim at 400-7733, or Nonoy Sornillo at 776-7606 for more details. Pro deo et patria.

Int'l professional qualification for accountants

ACCOUNTANTS--and even non-accountants--can now avail themselves of the chance to acquire an international professional qualification recognized here and abroad. The Institute of Certified Management Accountants (Icma) of Australia, which also grants the Certified Management Accountant title to successful candidates, is offering the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) program. It will be held at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center in Makati from July 9 to Aug. 27. The CAT Program, a globally recognized course of Icma, focuses on developing a strong base of technical accounting knowledge and skills; analytical, organizational and interpersonal skills; and professional values essential for coping with the day-to-day demands of a competitive business environment. Passing the CAT exam leads to 2 certification titles: CAT from Icma of Australia; Certified Bookkeeper from the Institute of Certified Bookkeeper of United Kingdom, the largest bookkeeping institute in the world. Limited registration is ongoing. Call Tata at 813-4176 to 77 and ask for a registration form to be faxed to you.

Automatic CENTRE

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One more week of Automatic Centre's Mid-year Appliance Madness

Here's some good news to shoppers constantly on the hunt for products and brands that carry the latest technology, but with a price tag friendly to the pocket.

Automatic Centre, the appliance authority and leader in home appliance exhibits is now having its latest offering -- the "Automatic Centre's Mid-Year Appliance Madness Exhibit" at the Acitivity Area of Edsa Central Pavillion.

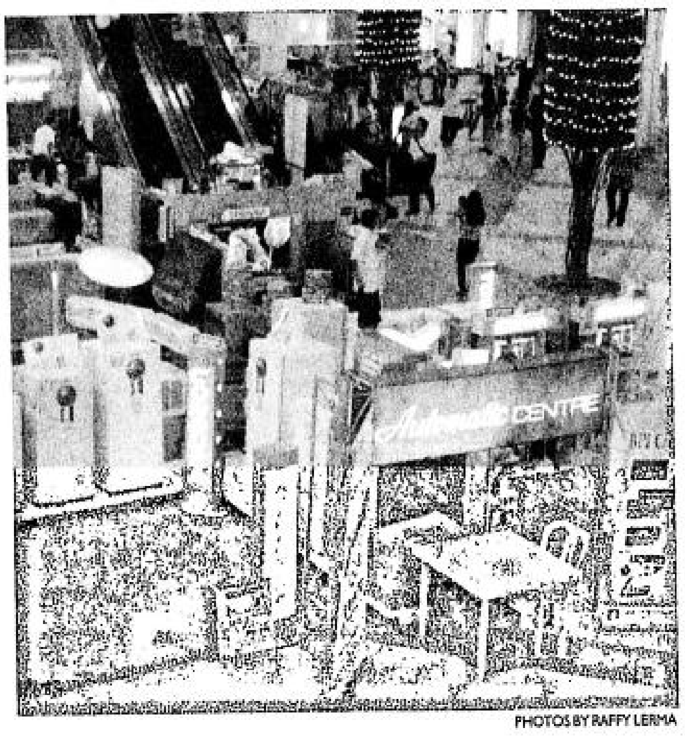
True to Automatic Centre's pioneering spirit of bringing the latest technology to the country, the exhibit features a range of appliances for the living room, bedroom and the kitchen, including digital cameras and cellphones, from the high-range, mid-level range to the very affordable ones. It is a must-see for shoppers plying the Edsa Central route and they only have a week to experience the exhibit which started on June 1 and will end on June 30.

This is the first time for Automatic Centre, known for organizing appliance exhibits in malls catering to middle class and upscale markets, to hold an appliance exhibit at Edsa Central.

Geoffrey Lim of Automatic Centre says the move, of the appliance chain known for digital plasma television exhibits, to hold an exhibit at Edsa Central Pavilion is to bring the benefits of branded products to an area more familiar with bargain center's selling generic labeled appliances.

"We want to share the benefits of branded consumer products with Edsa Central patrons. Branded products provide customers the assurance of quality, after sales service and product warranty. We only sell products that can deliver these guarantees for our customers," he says.

"We want to make consumers aware of branded products and the quality that go with them," he adds. In fact, product specialists from the different brands are present in the exhibit to help people with queries about the product.



PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

Samie Lim, president of Automatic Centre says the latest exhibit is part of the store's main thrust of bringing "edutainment" or education and entertainment to all levels of people.

"We realized that there's an enormous market here and we want to let the people know that we have the latest brands in appliances and a product mix that caters to this particular market or people who go to Edsa Central. We have top brands from China and Korea, quality products that carry prices people won't shy away from."

Lim refers to emerging global brands from China and Korea are enjoying spaces in the exhibit side by side with Japanese brands such as Sony or Sharp.

"We have not forgotten value-for-money-products -- that's why we brought in brands from China and Korea," Lim says. "People can avail their first ref, first TV or first oven from our exhibit."

So what's to see at the Automatic Mid Year Appliance Madness? A range of affordable branded DVDs, Karaoke microphones, flat-screen TVs, refs and air-conditions, gas ranges and microwave ovens, digital cameras, digital video recorders, cellphones and a lot more.

People will still see some plasma TVs to make them aware of the latest technology that has come to television.

JJ Montinola of Greenfield Development Corporation, which brought about the redevelopment of Edsa Central to its current look now, said the Automatic Centre's exhibit has been creating the much needed buzz for the redeveloped mall. For one, the exhibit has attracted more people to the area. The whole Edsa Central complex is still in the process of a makeover, but the shopping areas such as the Edsa Central Pavillion are now open to the public.

He says the new Edsa Central Pavillion houses retail stores that carry branded products and it's only fitting to hold an Automatic exhibit that features branded products.

"The Automatic Centre's exhibit is in synergy with our plan to change the image of Edsa Central into a quality shopping center. There's always the advantage of purchasing branded products that carry with it superior quality and service," he says.

At the exhibit area, a BPI credit card application booth is also located. Geoffrey Lim says the appliances on exhibit can be purchased through the use of the major credit cards. He says this is the opportunity for people to learn the advantages of using credit cards in purchasing appliances, since most credit cards offer zero percent interests and deferred payment schemes.

Samie Lim says Automatic Centre is also offering some sound promotions such as the giving away of gift certificates from Max restaurants upon purchase of certain appliances. "This is a small matter," says Samie Lim. "But we always do business with a purpose of uplifting the lives of Filipino families."

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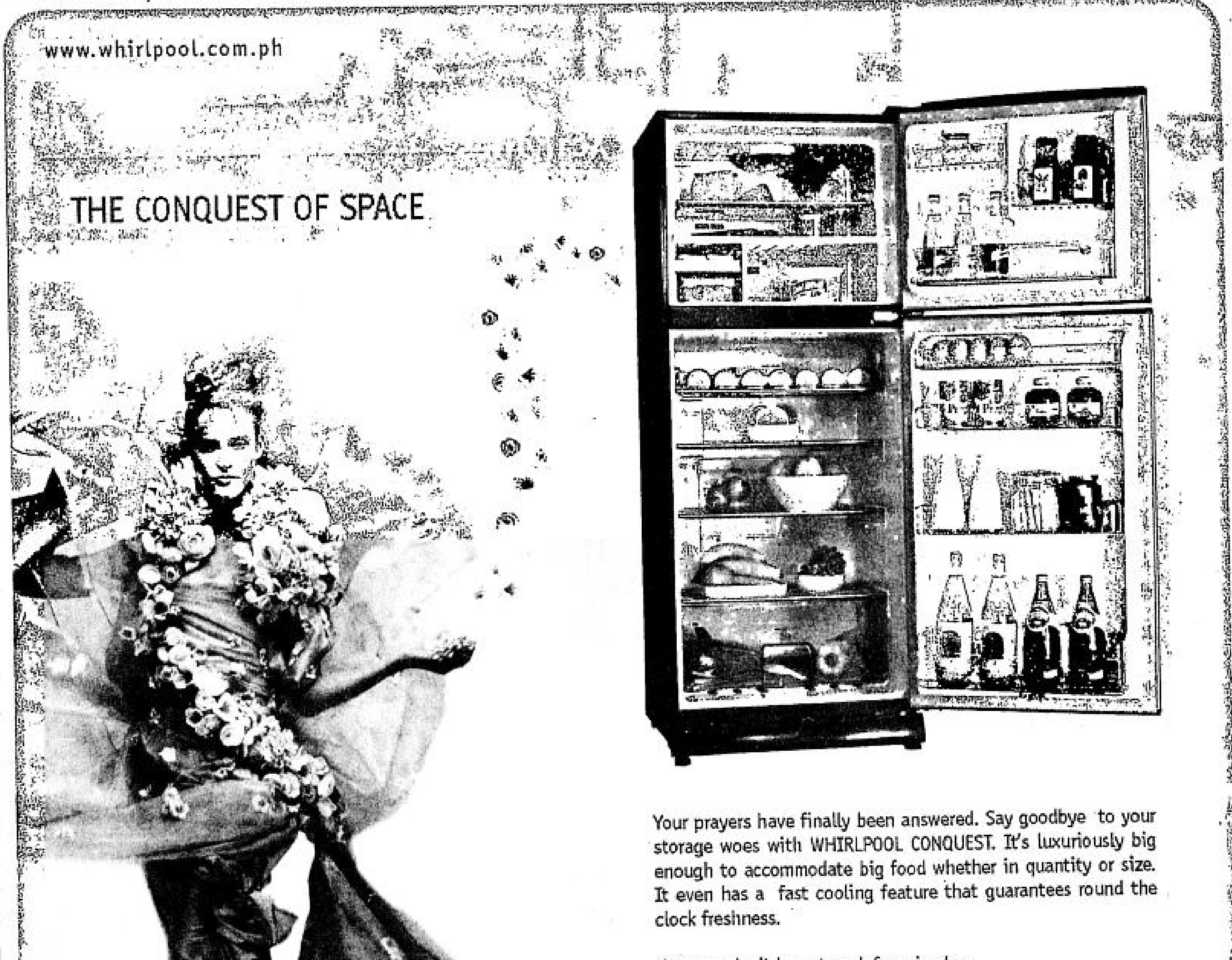

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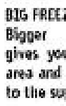

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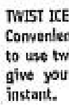

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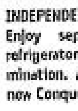

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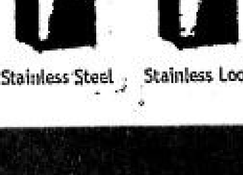

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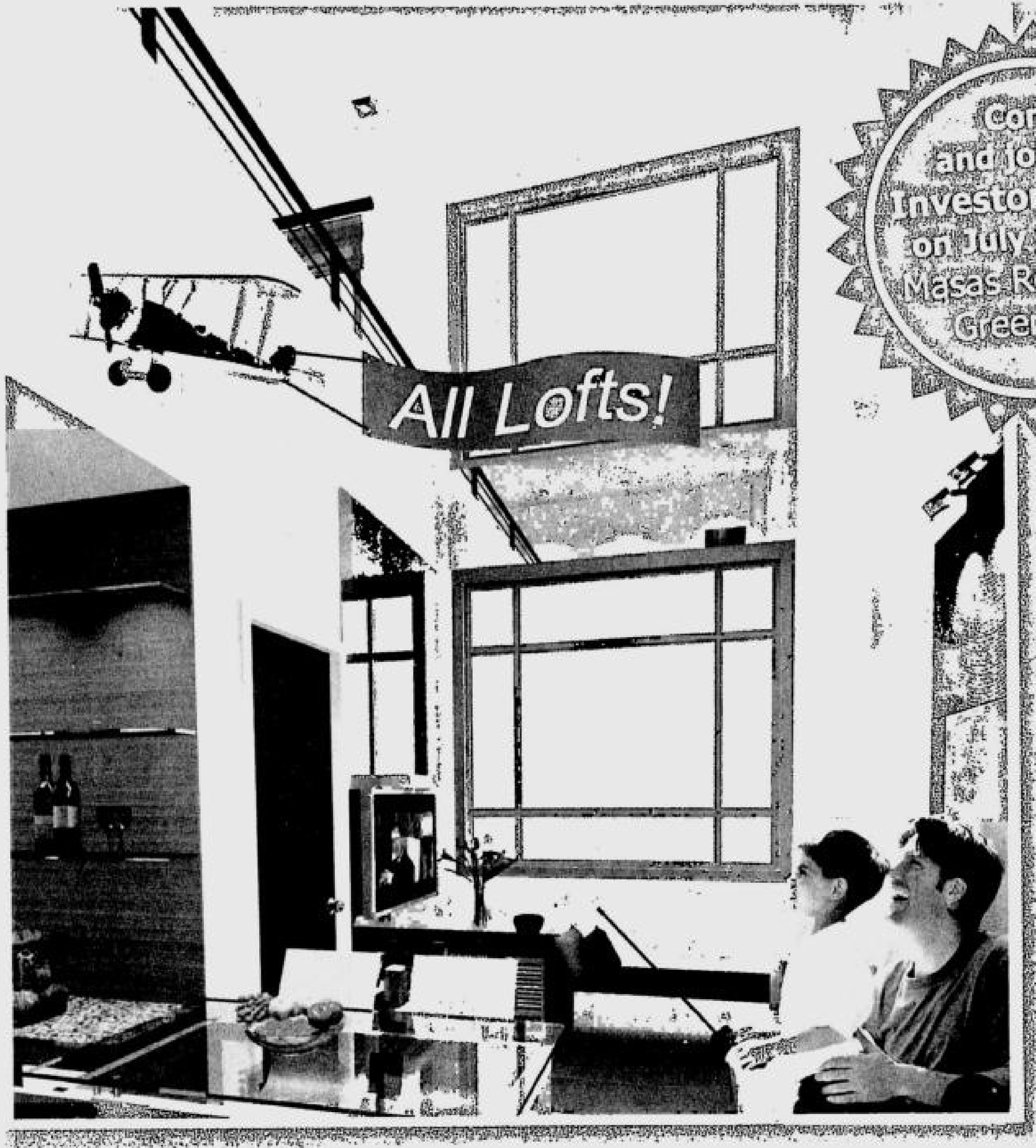

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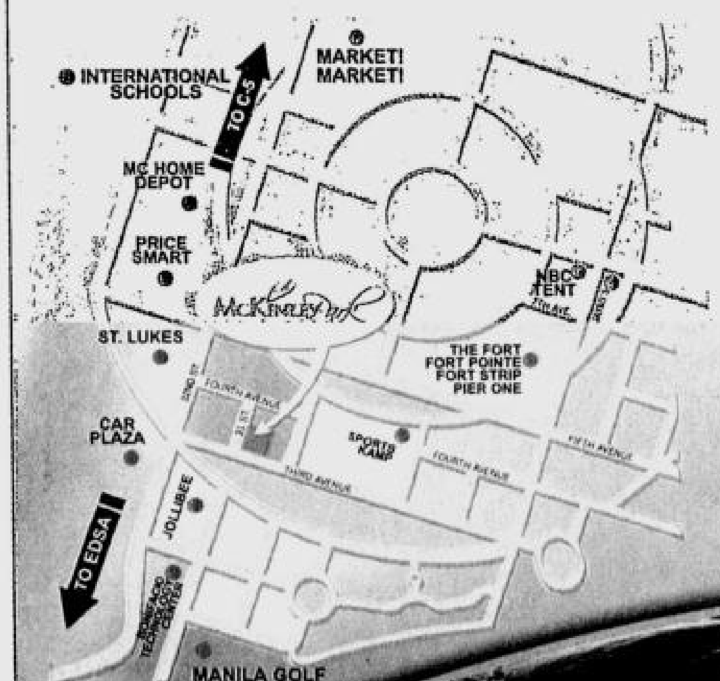
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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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Somber but celebratory

Marc Jacobs goes for muted colors balanced by rich detailing and interesting accessorizing

MONOGRAMMED beauty is fashioned from ostrich, python and lizard.

VUITTON'S Follow Me skirt derives its name from its sexy details on the back. Look consists of pouf-sleeved velvet-trim jacket and long pencil skirt.

By Alex Y. Vergara

IT'S all about dark colors and a beguiling mix of textures achieved through a clever juxtaposition of materials and embellishments for French luxury brand Louis Vuitton, which recently presented its fall/winter collection designed by artistic director Marc Jacobs via an afternoon fashion show at the National Taiwan Museum in Taipei.

The same somber colors and play of materials were echoed in Vuitton's men's line, also designed by Jacobs, as well as its coveted leather goods consisting of shoes and monogrammed bags made of such materials as ostrich, python and lizard and adorned with semi-precious stones such as tiger eye and green jasper.

Like the designer's fitted and paneled coats and jackets with velvet and fur trims, several women's bags were redolent of luxury courtesy of chinchilla and embroidered and quilted lambskin.

The brand's ubiquitous logos also appeared embossed on an

SOMBER/C2

BELTED wool dress, Vuitton's new silhouette this season, is embroidered with jet stones. The bag is made of quilted lambskin.

TWEED coat with cropped sleeves and high beribboned collar is finished off with a Vuitton monogrammed handbag of denim and chinchilla trim.

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POUF-SLEEVED jacket is embellished with vintage buttons and paired with slim skirt

VELVET jacket with muted trim and low-slung corduroy pants

BENEATH the embroidered bubble coat of wool is a taffeta and crushed velvet dress.

DOUBLE-BREASTED bubble coat in herringbone pattern

KNEE-HIGH ostrich boots impart a lasting statement.

COAT'S somber color gets sheen and texture via metallic pipings and fur trim

LOUIS VUITTON

HONG Kong celebrity Gigi Leung (center) leads Vuitton's multinational cast of lookers.

Som celeb

From page C1

off-white mink handbag. In truth, however, the bag was actually partly shaved to form several sets of the letters LV.

The same ostentatious look and feel were evident in a number of men's bags, particularly the oversized (by Asian standards, anyway) drawstring sack made of coal-black pony hair. It will take one confident man to carry such an attention-grabbing bohemian accessory.

For his women's collection, the American designer reportedly channeled several influences that harked back to the turn of the last century up to the 1920s: puffed-up sleeves were coupled with tight little jackets, coats were cut along complicated panels, skirts had long, thin silhouettes and trousers assumed a men's cut.

Jacobs' collection was equally defined by his choice and play on materials. Most of the structured pieces were fashioned from a combination of herringbone, wool, cashmere and tweed, while the softer, more feminine pieces made use of velvet, taffeta, satin, organza and the de rigueur chiffon.

Scene-stealing

One scene-stealing knitted skirt was even interspersed with a geometric patchwork of water snake and lambskin. A number of jackets with matching long pencil skirts with flared hems were cut close to the body, their curved panels trimmed with gold, fur or velvet for a dash of Art Deco.

Below-the-knee tulle and shirred chiffon skirts gained added volume, thanks to Jacobs' use of various materials in contrasting colors underneath. He also added several buttoned-down and double-breasted bubble coats in black, chocolate brown and olive green fashioned from tweed and wool.

The designer's clothes weren't hampered by his choice of near-funereal colors. If anything, such a decision allowed him to incorporate intricate details and accessories such as beaded and knitted shoulders and collars, embroidered belts, metallic-trims and leather patchworks that would have otherwise appeared too busy or too loud had he gone for bold shades.

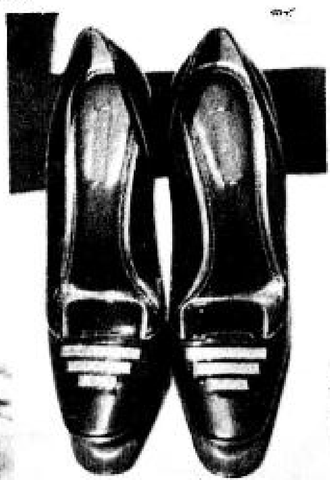
To a lesser degree, the same textures and clever play on materials were also present in Jacobs' men's collection consisting mostly of velvet coats, tight-fitting corduroy pants and cashmere sweaters and pea coats.

In the absence of metallic piping, several pieces inspired either by Rudolf Nureyev or the Viennese belle époque period gained some sheen and texture from the designer's use of velvet and lambskin trims.

Men's accessories and shoes exuded a luxurious bohemian feel as evidenced by such pieces as an LV-embroidered rabbit fur scarf and a knee-high pair of Ostrich boots.

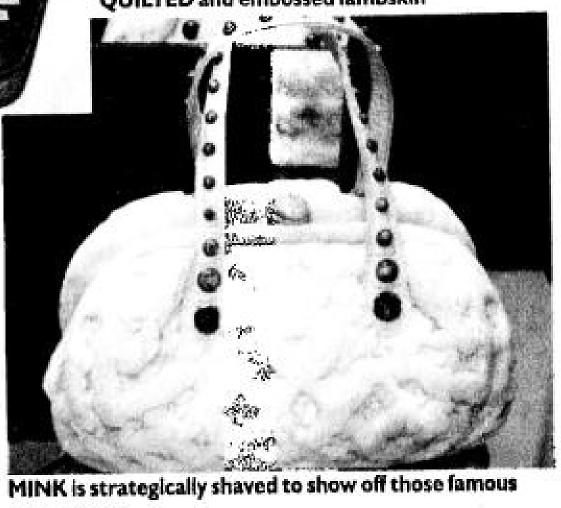
The bags' materials ranged from pony

DENIM bag with python handles and chinchilla trim



EXPENSIVE office basics embellished with python strips

QUILTED and embossed lambskin



MINK is strategically shaved to show off those famous monograms.

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LOUIS VUITTON

EMBROIDERED rabbit fur scarf

A WING of the historic National Taiwan Museum is converted into a showroom.

FOR him only, LV oversized leather bag and beribboned moccasins

ber
ut
ratory

In the Tiger economies of Asia, Louis Vuitton has become an ubiquitous label

hair to hand-woven carpet with leather trims and handles to impart them with an added feel of luxury. Jacobs tapered such excesses by making his models wear either muted cotton or silk shirts.

Hard-core environmentalists will certainly raise a ruckus at such wanton use of animal parts, but not addicted Asian fashionistas who can't seem to have enough of such pricey merchandise.

Common wear

Unlike in the Philippines, for instance, where being seen wearing signature items remains a big deal, it has become quite common for Vuitton-clad Taiwanese to troop to work or go shopping via public transport. The brand—and we mean the genuine article—has become that ubiquitous on the island.

That's why after launching the same collection earlier in Paris, Vuitton deemed it necessary to do a repeat in Taipei, where its eight stores are doing brisk business. For added star value, company executives cast Hong Kong celebrity Gigi Leung to model alongside top male and female mannequins.

Leung and company glided the museum's dramatic twin staircase before posing on the huge landing and descending a few more steps to a short, barely elevated ramp set across the hall. The room, which was relatively small for such a show to begin with, was crowded with journalists and a select gaggle of Taiwanese fashionistas.

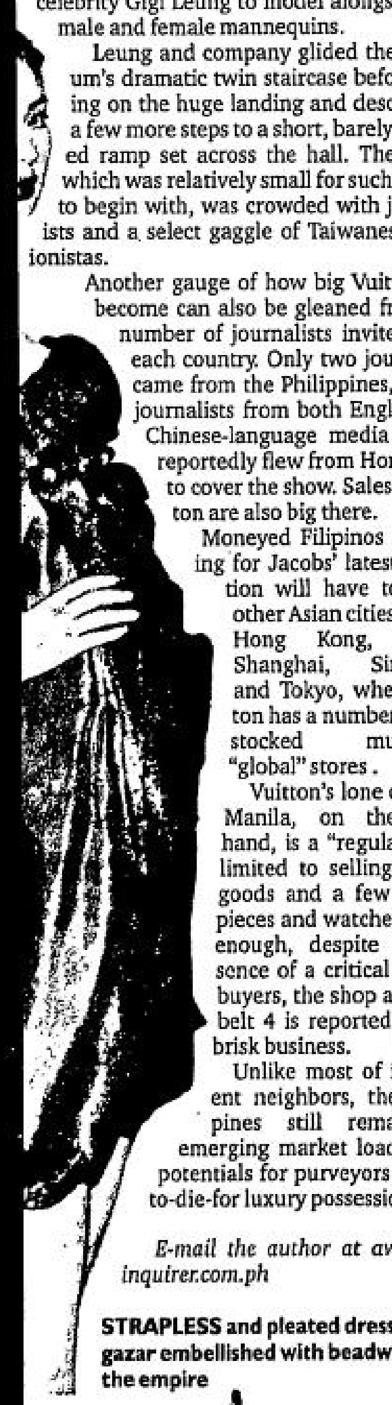
Another gauge of how big Vuitton has become can also be gleaned from the number of journalists invited from each country. Only two journalists came from the Philippines, but 30 journalists from both English and Chinese-language media outlets reportedly flew from Hong Kong to cover the show. Sales of Vuitton are also big there.

Moneyed Filipinos hankering for Jacobs' latest collection will have to fly to other Asian cities such as Hong Kong, Taipei, Shanghai, Singapore and Tokyo, where Vuitton has a number of fully stocked multi-level "global" stores .

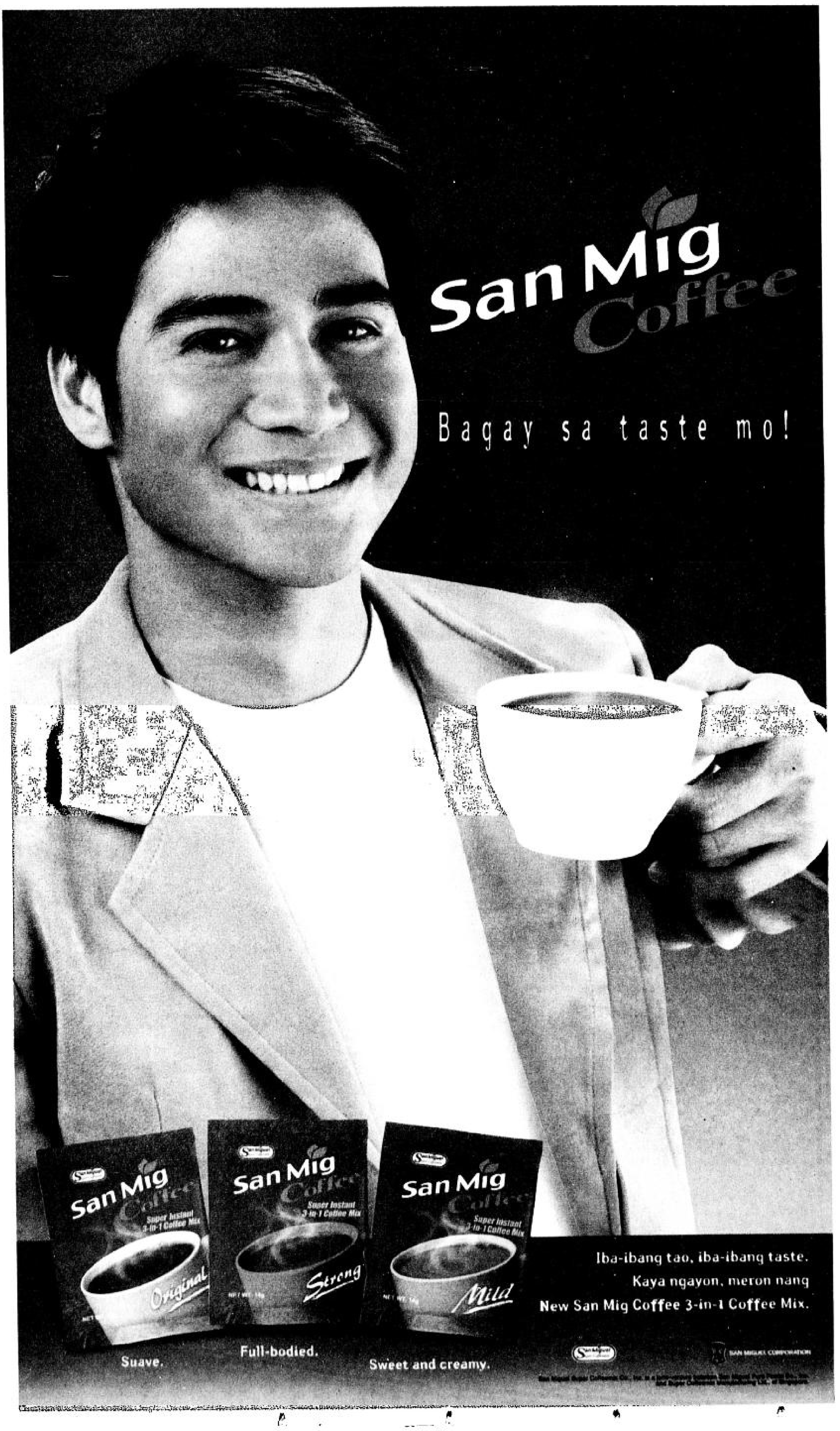
Vuitton's lone outlet in Manila, on the other hand, is a "regular" store limited to selling leather goods and a few jewelry pieces and watches. Oddly enough, despite the absence of a critical mass of buyers, the shop at Greenbelt 4 is reportedly doing brisk business.

Unlike most of its affluent neighbors, the Philippines still remains an emerging market loaded with potentials for purveyors of those to-die-for luxury possessions.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



STRAPLESS and pleated dress of silk gazar embellished with beadwork on the empire



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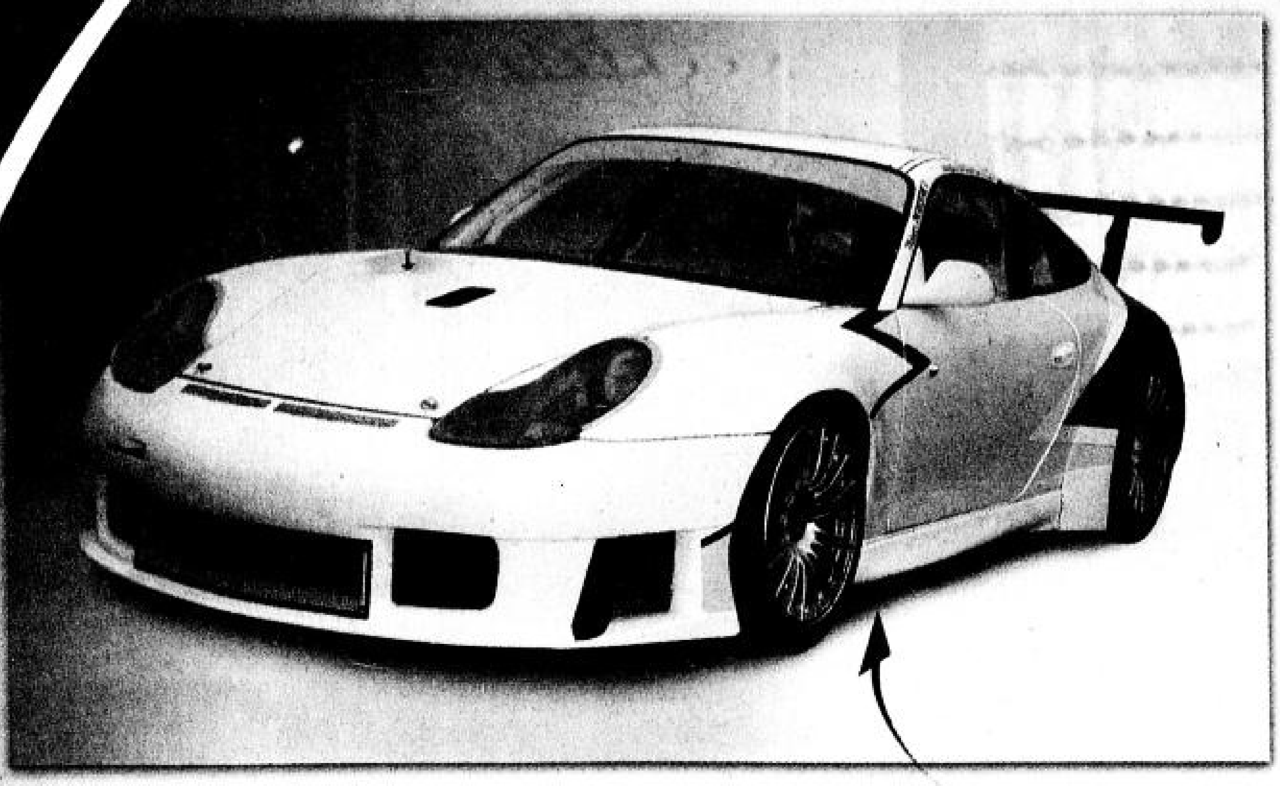

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Striking oil

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

FOREVER the beauty addict, I try everything that is sent to me regardless of packaging, price and popularity. There have been a lot of exciting picks that are very affordable and of excellent quality. Bear in mind that I have tried everything that appears in my column.

What olive oil has done for Italy, coconut oil will do for the Philippines. I discovered this new brand called Mr. Coconut, which sells extra-virgin coconut oil in a 250-ml bottle for P199 and already has quite a cult following for its hair-scalp care properties. It is also said to prevent white hair from growing. This edible oil may also be used for cooking; it may be used as an after-bath moisturizer or bath oil.

If you want less mess, I suggest you buy the oil mist spray for P149. I assure you among all the oil mist sprays I have tried, this is the most moisturizing. It will particularly benefit those with really dry skin on the arms and legs.

Caution: For the acne-prone, avoid spraying oil mist on back, shoulders and chest. I was also told I had the faint smell of *latik*, so use it only when about to sleep. You will wake up all soft and silky.

Favorite

My hands-down favorite of the line is the body lotion, which smells like full cream milk with a dash of powdered sugar. It costs P149 for 200 ml.

Mr. Coconut also has come up with a whitening version. It comes in green but with the same addicting yummy scent. After testing it on one hand, I found that my hand seems slightly lighter than the other one after two weeks. The best way to describe it is that it is a moisturizing gel, which gives a concentrated boost of hydration to thirsty skin without the slimy residue.

I apply it even on my acne-prone areas and do not get breakouts. It penetrates my dry heels without making me slip on the floor. It is also an excellent after-sun cooling gel. I wish Mr. Coconut would come out with a body spray of the same scent.

The only other gel moisturizer this good is the Body Shop's Spa Wisdom hydrating purée, which smells like luxurious rose water and slight citrus for those who do not want to smell like food.

If you want a different scent, visit the Body Shop nearest you. I recommend Grapeseed and Olive. The Monoi massage oil smells like Gardenia and is a favorite of mine.

More sprays

If you want more coconut oil sprays, try VMV Hypoallergenics Fresh Moisture Skin Dew Body Oil. It comes in ginger, peony, lemon and mint and smells like those in the high-end spas in the US. It's the closest we have locally that could compete with Clarins, Origins and Decleor.

Tip: The mint and lemon make this oil spray an effective insect repellant. If the scent interests you, VMV has a Hair and Body wash, Conditioner and two mild Body Scrubs to choose from (I prefer the peony to the ginger).

Another fabulous oil find is Ellips Moisturizing Radiance Body Oil. It comes in three variants: Sweet Embrace (green tea), Morning Dew (sesame oil) and Tender Kisses (unscented). At P53.75 each, they are the biggest bargain find.

After bathing, apply the oil on damp skin on the body. Even if we have acne-prone skin, the arms and legs lack oil glands to trap moisture in so these usually get dry and itchy. The oil is reasonably priced enough to be used liberally every day. Do not use on face, though, unless you want to risk breakouts. Ellips is coming up with a pink variant soon, which will have a vanilla fragrance.

Not for the fainthearted: Are you a hard-core follower of Sweet Dessert fragrances? I discovered this body moisturizer called Silk Souffle by Nikali at P1,100. It stays on all day and won't require a fragrance on top.

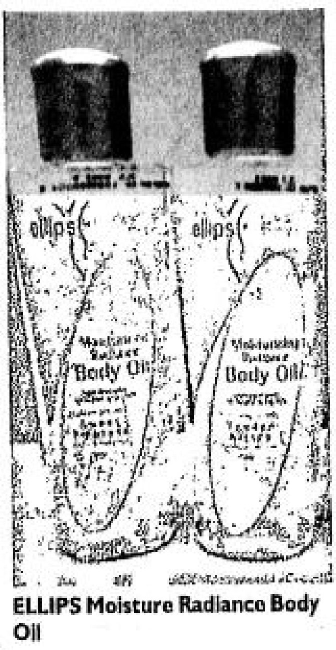
Those who love Laura Mercier's Gourmand Body line will flip for this. Its fragrance intensity is the same as Laura Mercier's for half the price. Smells like crème brulée/panna cotta or vanilla pudding. Call 8442939.

Are you a chocoholic? Go for Origins Cocoa Therapy body scrub and Cocoa soap. Check out Origins' body line at Rustan's if you like the dark chocolate scent with a twist of orange zest. It goes perfect with Comptoir Sud Pacifique's Amor de Cacao EDT. It helps cut cravings for sweets and makes me stick to my sugar-free diet as I drown my senses in these for the rainy season. (Do not use for summer because it will be too sickening for those around you!)

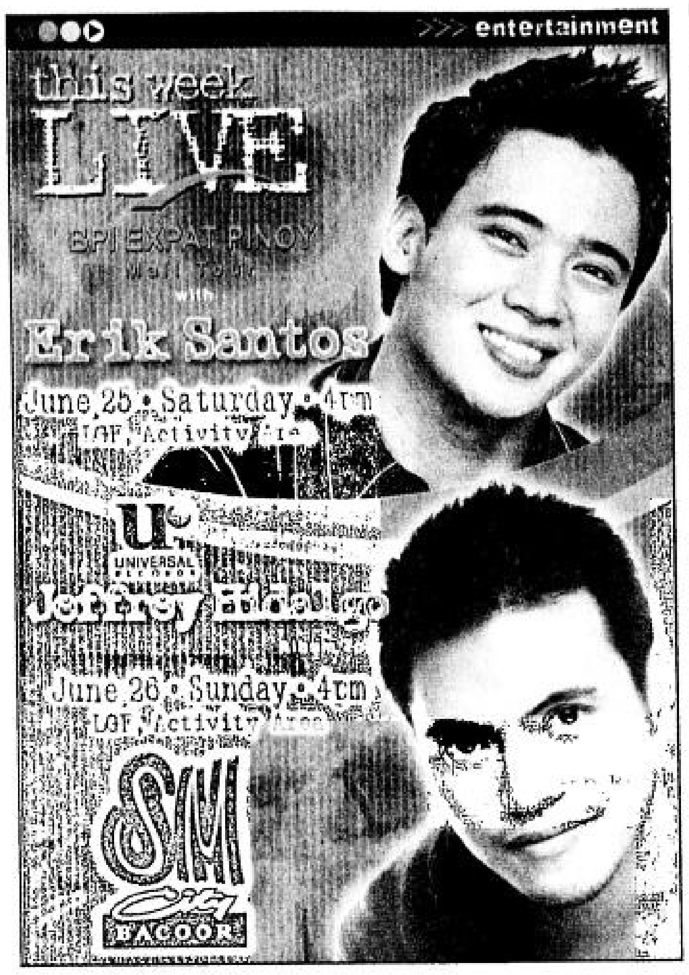
Mr. Coconut has kiosks at Megamall and SM North Edsa. Ellips is available at leading groceries and drug stores while VMV hypoallergenics is available at Watson's and leading drugstores.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

MR. COCONUT Hand and Body lotion—my favorite



ELLIPS Moisture Radiance Body Oil



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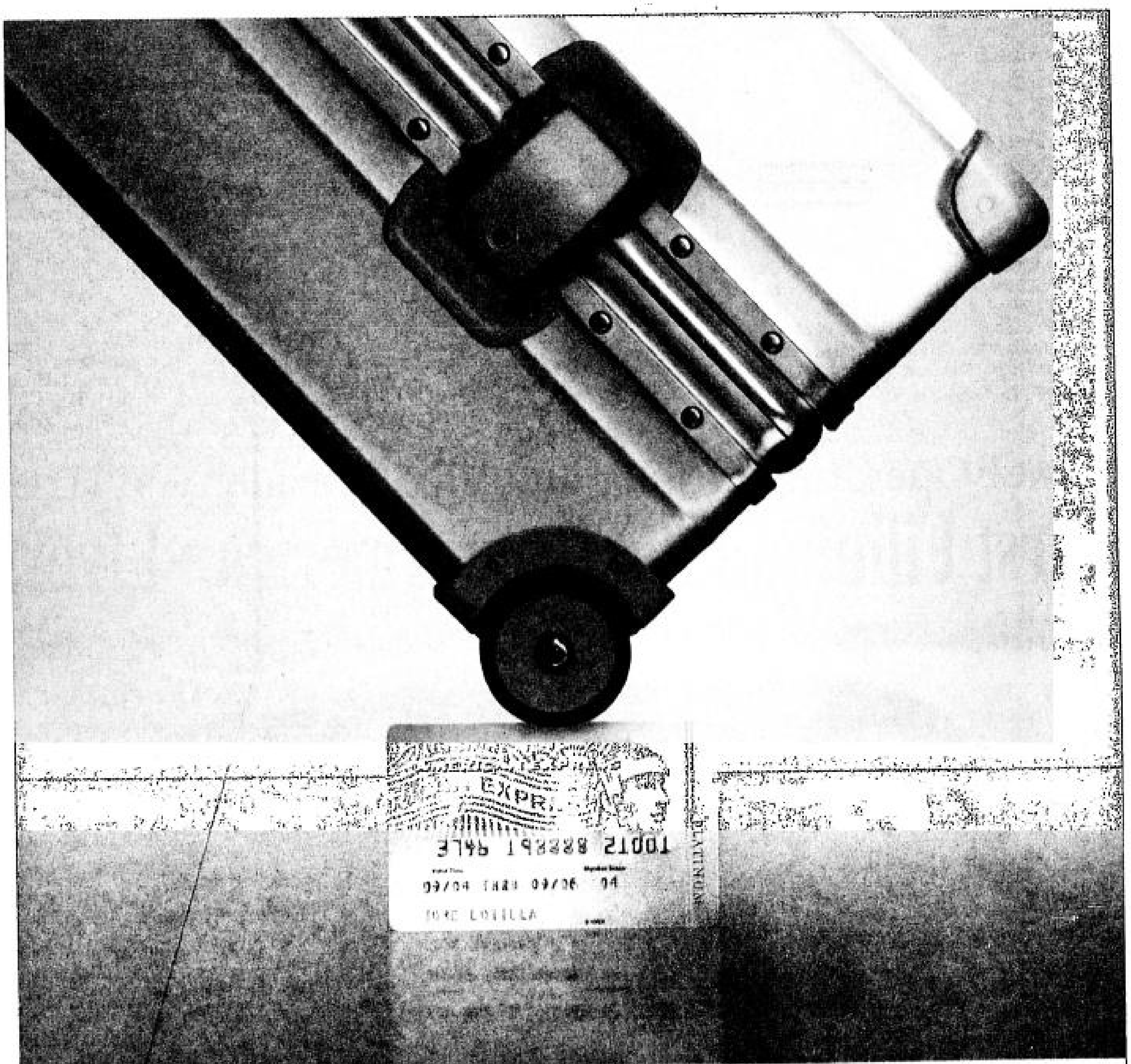

We've put two trips to Hong Kong on our Peso Platinum Credit Card.

The Credit Card that's loaded with benefits just got more. Because when you acquire the American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card before 31 July 2005 and spend just Php 150,000 within six months from card approval date, we'll give you enough Membership Rewards Points for a round-trip plane ticket to Hong Kong*. Spend more, and get a second round-trip ticket.

Apply for the credit card with substance at 814-4777.

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Terms and conditions apply. *Through the PAL Mabuhay Miles Program. Promo period: 08 May 2005 until 31 July 2005. Please see brochure for complete details.
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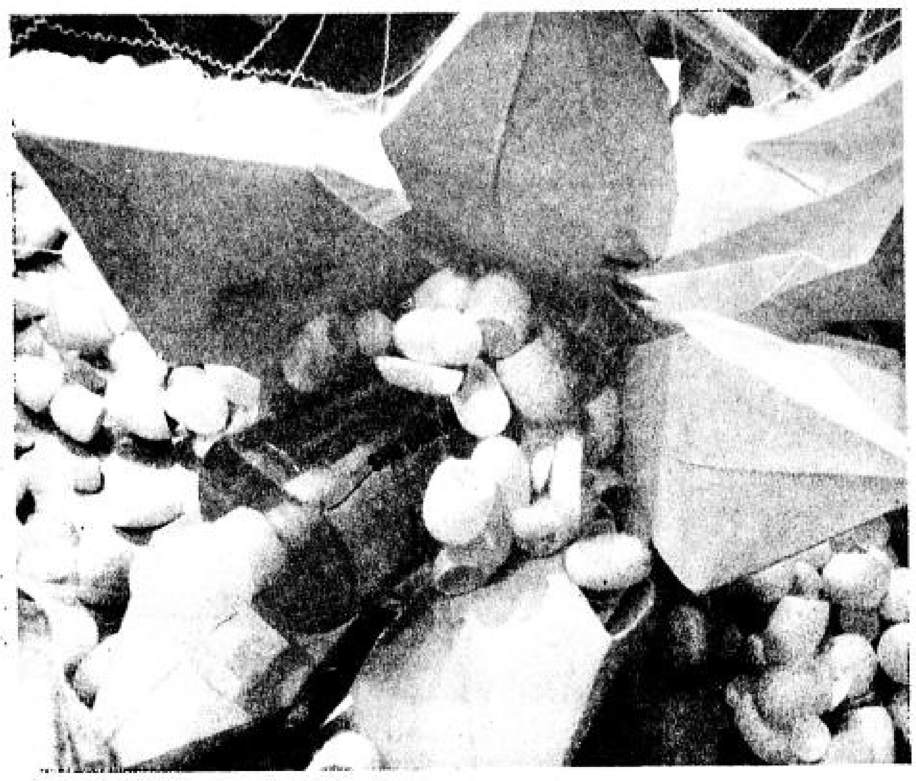


SHU UEMURA'S Sakura Cleansing Oil as displayed by Filipino group HG

shu
SHU UEMURA SKIN PURIFIER

BIG-SPENDING Shu users of its pink oil can avail themselves of this bag for free.

Pretty in pink

Shu Uemura gives you flushed, ruddy complexion with its newest cleansing oil

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

JAPANESE makeup brand Shu Uemura drew inspiration from the fresh, delicate and ephemeral nature of the cherry blossom, Japan's revered national flower, to come up with Sakura Cleansing Oil.

The pink or fresh variant is designed to appeal to people with oily skin or those unfamiliar with oil as a facial cleanser. It's Shu Uemara's latest addition to its signature cleansing oils consisting of the classic (light yellow), enriched (amber) and premium or anti-aging (green).

The pink oil, which has been launched around the world, was formulated to replace the clear or colorless variant. For some reason, the latter didn't sell as well as expected.

The 150-ml bottle of Sakura Cleansing Oil costs P1,195, while the bigger 450-ml bottle can set you back by P4,350. Shu Uemura's cleansing oils are available at all Shu Uemura counters in such leading department stores as Rustan's.

"This new product combines the fragrance of cherry blossoms with the cleansing and refining properties of cherry extract and deep-sea water," says Tina Tinio, Shu Uemura's brand manager in the Philippines. "It's not just a pretty product that's very Japanese. It's also an effective cleanser, especially for those with oily skin."

Apart from its cleansing and healing properties, the pink oil has a refreshing and cooling effect that impedes the production of sebum, the oil excreted by the face. It is also an essential part of the beauty ritual before and after sleeping. Users will find it an effective partner in removing all traces of makeup as well as sweat and excess oil secreted during sleep.

"Men may be a little turned off by its color," says Tinio. "But the product works well for both men and women. It leaves a light and fresh feeling. That's why the user doesn't feel like using oil at all."

Pink party

Trust the indefatigable Tinio to create an event out of a product launch. She and her team, consisting of seasoned makeup artists Xeng Zulueta and Jigs Mayuga, herded Manila's young and glamorous set to the Drawing Room gallery in Makati for an afternoon tea. It was a crowded pink party since almost everyone came in their cherry blossom best.

In Tinio's desire to position Shu Uemura as a makeup and artistic brand, she tapped HG, a creative team made up of young Filipino artists, to design and mount a multimedia visual display during the launch.

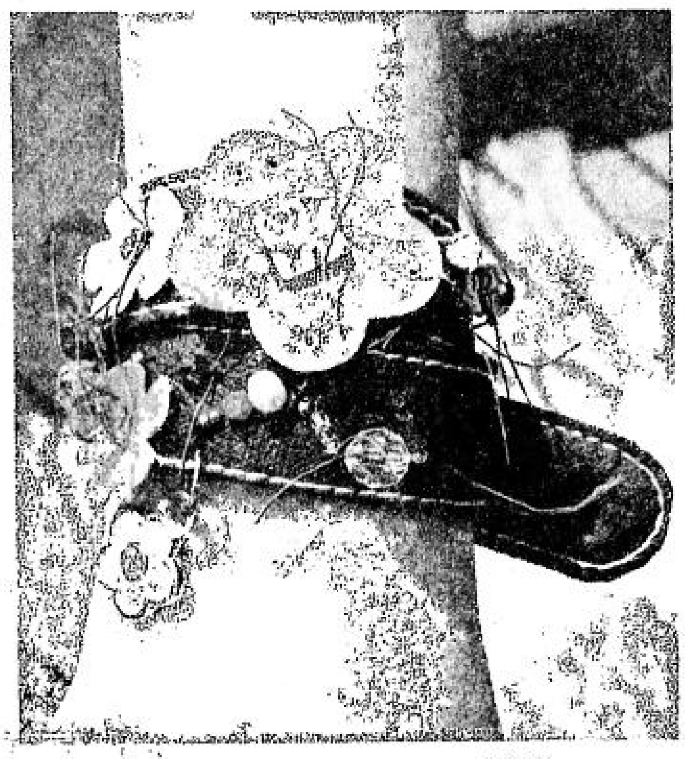
HG, or Homo Gestalt, is composed of producer-director Erwin Romulo, artist and fashion designer Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, stylist Mads Adrias and photographer Jino Juan. Tinio also tasked the group to design customer giveaways such as bags, cuffs and brooches.

For a small bottle of the pink oil, buyers can avail themselves of either a brown cuff or a multi-strand leather necklace. The cuff is embellished with pink and green floral appliqué and beads, while the necklace comes with a big pendant with faux pink and red pearls strung together.

The pink shoulder bag with floral-embellished strap is reserved for the big-spending shopper who's willing to spend at least P5,000 on Shu Uemura's latest offering. Just like the fleeting presence of cherry blossoms, the giveaways are available for a limited time only.

"At least those who miss this year's cherry blossoms, which last for only a week, can look forward to catching them again next spring. But once these giveaways are gone, they're gone forever," says Tinio.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



FLORAL-EMBELLISHED cuff to jazz up your look

Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of TCLI

First Filipina Pilot from American Flyers

Ms. Arlen on her aviation at American Flyers..

Ms. Arlen M. Bayoneta, chief operating officer and vice president of Trinidad Cosmetics Laboratory, Inc. (TCLI), makers of Likas Papaya, the first Filipino pure organic papaya whitening herbal soap, has received her private pilot license making her the first Filipina pilot to finish the private pilot program from American Flyers.

Ms. Arlen, the youngest daughter of Mrs. Belen Mangahas-Bayoneta, founder of TCLI, arrived from United States of America on June 17, 2005 fresh off her graduation from American Flyers, Pompano Fort Lauderdale Florida, U.S.A.

American Flyers, America's largest flying school is honored to have Arlen as their first lady pilot from the Philippines to finish their private pilot program. American Flyers offers how-to-fly program, license upgrade and aviation career. Even though American Flyers have all the features of a large organization, its reputation rests solely on the personal service, making it the only American flying school with the highest number of pilot graduates, a record unsurpassed by any other flying school the world over. Flying lesson as an intensive course at American Flyers School normally starts at 7a.m. to 11p.m., 7 days a week but with break/off upon request.

For Ms. Arlen, finishing her private pilot is her major achievement after graduating from Cardiff University in Wales, United Kingdom (UK) in 2000 with MBA degree.. This achievement took her 35 days to complete the course. She is especially proud of the 82% rating in her "take one" written exam.

According to her, in between storms in Florida, her scheduled flying always had to be rescheduled over and over until it finally took off.

"Being the first Filipina pilot to achieve this private pilot program at American Flyers is one of my greatest achievements I've ever received. It's really an honor to finish this course and I dedicate this achievement to our country," says Ms. Arlen with pride.

Now, Ms. Arlen M. Bayoneta is not only a provider of beauty but also an Airman Private Pilot registered under licensed by U.S. Department of Transportation issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of United States of America.

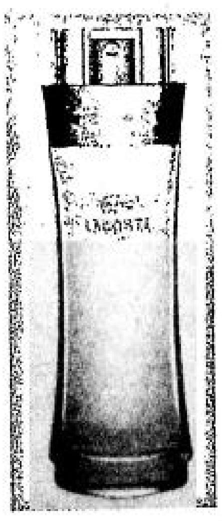
Proud Pinay Pilot. Ms. Arlen M. Bayoneta, TCLI Chief Operating Officer with American Flyers Personnel (from left) Captain Roy Rogers; Mr. David Stallard, School Admissions Director and Mr. Patrick Connel, Instructor.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Citibank's Inno Sotto Mondo offer

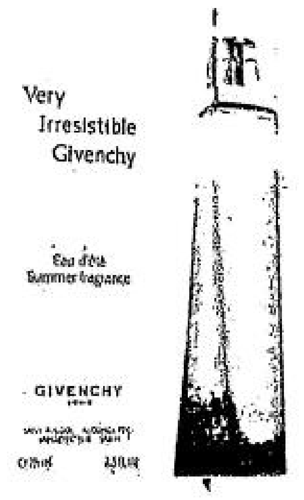
CAPTURE the fragrance and essence of Inno Sotto Mondo perfume using your Citibank credit card and enjoy 50-percent off on your second purchase. Satisfy your scent sensitivity with these three fragrances—Hult, Deauville and Miro. Hult combines citrus, spices, floral and woodsy aromas. Deauville combines citrus and green musky ingredients. Miro has a citrus base that also combines pepper and violet. Exclusive to Citibank cardholders, the promo, until June 30, is available at Rustan's Essenses in Makati, Shangri-La and Alabang.

ISM
INNO SOTTO MONDO



Fragrance wins award

Fifi Awards recently awarded Lacoste Touch of Pink the following: Best Pret-a-Porter Fragrance in Germany; People's Choice in Germany and the United Kingdom; Best Prestige Advertising in Spain. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. in leading department stores nationwide.



As fresh as morning dew

Very Irresistible Givenchy's Summer Fragrance captures the scent of roses covered with morning dew. This gives the fragrance its signature freshness and transparency, enhanced by a sorbet quality unique to its ingredients. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. in leading department stores nationwide.

Back-to-school promo

GOINGS ON

BUM Equipment and Bum G offers preppy separates in blush pink, washed denim pants, young men's line of tri-fit round neck shirts and cardigan jackets for back-to-school get up. Get a free VCD for every P500 single receipt purchase of any Bum Equipment and Bum G Apparel at all SM outlets nationwide. Promo runs until June 30.

SALE. Check out Robinsons Department Stores' Jeans and Shirt Sale and get 50-percent off on selected jeans and shirts from the men's and ladies' departments until June 30. Robinsons Department Stores are located in all Robinsons Malls; Waltermart Malls; Tutuban Center; Starmall, Shaw Boulevard; Metropolis and Festival Mall, Alabang; and Nepo Mall, Pampanga.

SHOW. Cellist Victor Michael Coo is out to woo this city's classical music-starved audience today at the Baguio Country Club with a program of Beethoven and Boccherini sonatas, Schumann fantasy pieces and other short works. Tickets are available at tel. 09108851136.

PROMO. Citibank is giving away Apple iPod Shuffle mp3 players, free months of usage to PLDT myDSL broadband Internet, and high-end PC packages to both its bank account holders and credit cardholders who will go online. To join the "Citibank Online Get Connected Promo," visit Citibank Online at www.citibank.com.ph. Promo is ongoing until June 30.

CONCERT. Paco Park Presents features "Mga Awit ng Lumipas" tonight at 6. Performers include sopranos Cynthia Culig-Guico and Nenen Espina-Alfornon, tenor Ronan Ferrer, baritone Lionel Guico and pianist Marianne Fajardo. Admission is free.

SEMINAR. Starmall Las Piñas and Philippine Red Cross-Las Piñas chapter will hold a first aid seminar tomorrow, 4-6 p.m., at the 2/L activity hub of Starmall Las Piñas. Kids, aged 5-13, will learn about fast and simple steps to cure small injuries. Call 8725249.

DANCE. Ballet at the Park presents the Dance Concert Company and Vella C. Damian School of Ballet tomorrow, 5 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

MUSICAL. Concert at the Park presents Philippine Research for Developing Instrumental Soloists Children's Orchestra on June 26, 5 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

REUNION. The 1985 batch of the University of the Philippines College Cebu High School will hold its 20th reunion on July 1 at Marriott Hotel Cebu City. The event starts at 6 p.m. Alvin Chong and his band will provide entertainment. Call Tina Pacis-Ouano at 0926-3763611. E-mail Sharon Hormachuelos-Lim at shormal@yahoo.com or Carla Ybañez-Veloso at mcv913@yahoo.com.

FAIR. The World Environment Month celebration dubbed Samu't-sari Para sa Inang Kalikasan is ongoing until tomorrow at National Ecology Center, East Ave., QC. The eco-trade fair features an array of eco-friendly products, green technologies and Pinoy inventions. Call 9254718.

CLASSES. The Philippine Italian Association will hold Italian classes for beginners, intermediate and advance, at PIA Secretariat, 2nd floor, Zeta Bldg., 191 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati. Classes are set on June 27, 2-4 p.m.; and June 28, 2-4 p.m. Enrolment is ongoing. Call 8151310.

WORKSHOP. Prof. Cecilia Angeles will conduct Painting Made Easy Workshop on June 28 and 30, 9 a.m.-12 nn and 1-5 p.m., at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will conduct photography courses at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. The basic photo seminar will start on July 3 while the advance course is set on July 2. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

BAZAAR. The 4th Korea in Focus and 1st Philippine Crafts Fair is ongoing until July 3 at Greenhills Shopping Complex.

SALE. Freeway and Ensembles will hold a mid-year sale on July 1-31. Twenty-Two BC has an ongoing sale until July 20.

SYMPOSIUM. Ayala Museum will host "Manila, World Entrepot: 16th-19th Century Exchange of Objects Between Asia, Europe and the Americas" on July 8-10. Registration is ongoing until July 5. Call 7577117 to 21.

SUMMIT. The 1st Philippine Summit on Women and Technology is slated on July 14 at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel, Makati. Call 8302191/ 8132732/ 8132703.

Imelda Shoe EXHIBIT

IMELDA Shoe Store Exhibit at 3/L, Ali Mall

'Shoe Me' shows you footwear galore

THE BIGGEST footwear exhibit-cum-bazaar in the metropolis, "So Shoe Me! The Mother of All Shoe Festivals," continues to draw crowds at Ali Mall, Araneta Center. The exhibit has been extended to June 30.

Shoppers not only get to see a rare exhibit of celebrity footwear but also enjoy big discounts on shoes.

The Celebrity Footwear Exhibit at the third floor features the world-famous shoe collection of former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Also on display are shoes of former President Fidel Ramos and Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando.

Parents and kids can have their photographs taken inside the country's first Giant Shoe-on-Wheels.

Discounts of up to 50 percent are given on a wide range of shoes by participating stores—Adidas, Royal Sporting House, Athlete's Foot, Rusty Lopez, and many more.

The City of Marikina is also conducting shoe-making demonstrations and a display of some of the city's prize-winning shoes at the third floor.

Stylish, sexy T-shirt bra

TRIUMPH International has created a product for women who want to achieve the same svelte look for their upper bodies—the One-Piece T-Shirt Bra.

Triumph's One-Piece T-Shirt Bra has totally eliminated seams in the bra cups and side panels, creating one continuous line and a smooth, comfortable feel.

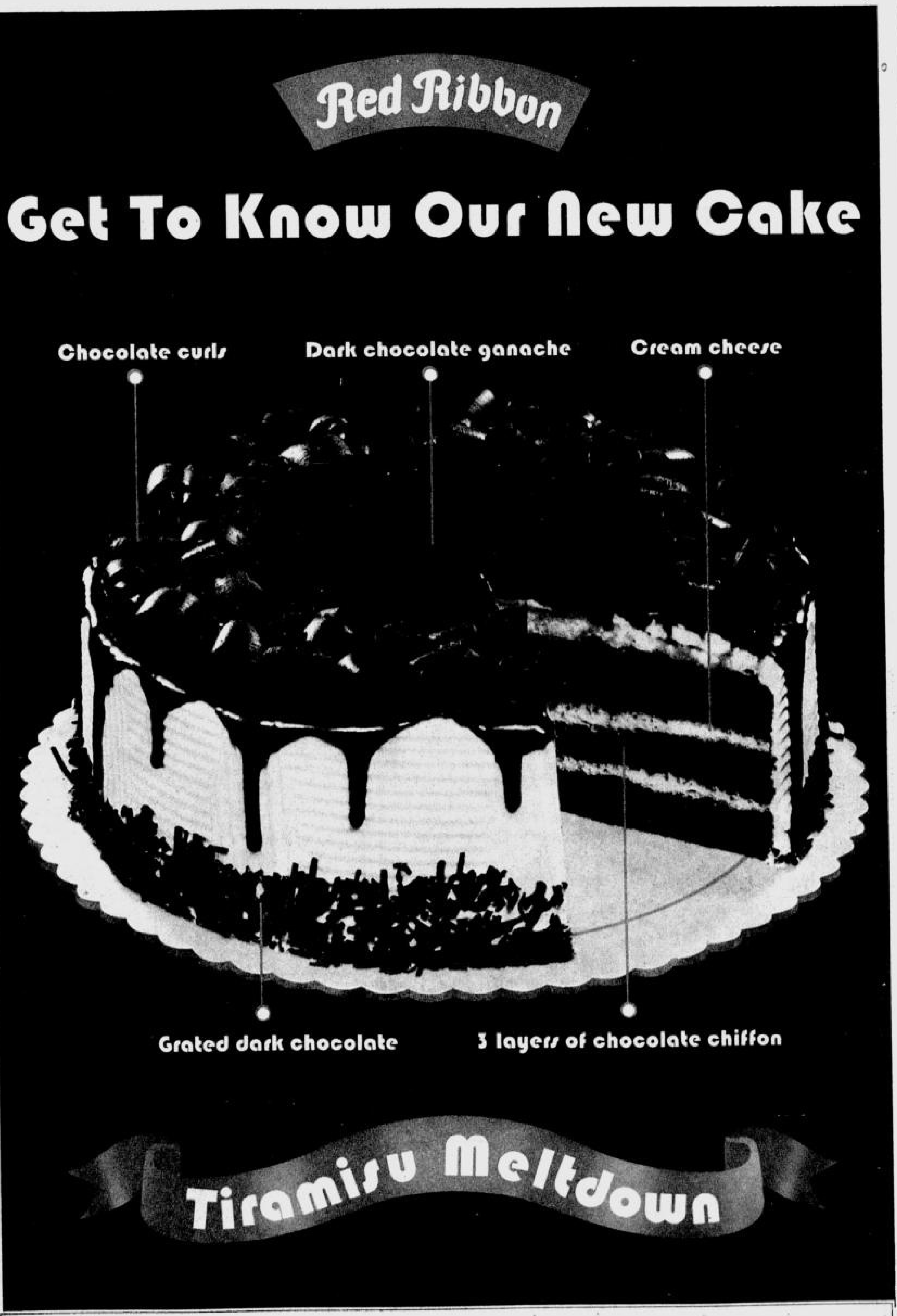
The bra has nary a stitch, nary a seam. It has no unsightly bulges. The cup fits like second skin. The result is a smooth, continuous look that is both stylishly cool but still sexy.

Called "the most beautiful bra you'll never see," the soft, seamless bra is virtually invisible when worn under tight, light tops and T-shirts—the result of a revolutionary manufacturing process.

The Triumph One-Piece T-Shirt Bra comes in a selection of pastel shades ranging from black to pale yellow. There's a variety of matching panties for each color, too.

Check out this new bra from Triumph International Philippines at SM North Edsa, SM Makati, SM Megamall, The Landmark, Rustan's Alabang, Rustan's Tower, Rustan's Makati, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinson's Galleria, SM Davao, SM Cebu, and Metro Ayala Cebu.

TRIUMPH One-Piece T-Shirt Bra



We're giving away a free bottle of COKE 1.5 liter when you buy a Tiramisu Meltdown.

Available from May 28 to June 30, 2005

The contour bottle and the dynamic ribbon device are registered trademarks of the Coca-Cola Company 2005.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2805, Series of 2005.

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NEW

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for high-resolution, razor-sharp images

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for fast, silent zooming and UD lens to reduce chromatic aberrations

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corrects camera shake for sharp and clear images

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for richer colours and faster processing speed

INCREDIBLY SEAMLESS MOVIES

30fps VGA RESOLUTION
for higher quality videos

STEREO RECORDING
for more natural and realistic sound quality

PHOTO IN MOVIE
allows photos to be shot during movie recording

SINGLE-FRAME MOVIE PRINT
for printing specific movie frames

The new Canon *PowerShot S2 IS* is loaded with professional features that allow unlimited creative possibilities. From tight macro shots to exciting action scenes to vast scenic landscapes, this camera is fully equipped to handle any subject effortlessly. Vividly beautiful and finely detailed movies can also be recorded at the touch of the movie button. Best of all, the *PowerShot S2 IS* is so simple to use, you can master shots like a professional in no time at all.

PowerShot S2 IS

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FOR GREATER SHOOTING VERSATILITY

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NIVEA VISAGE
MULTIPLE WHITE
WHITENING SCRUB
With White Pure Active & Micro Beads
Purifies and supports skin lightening

NIVEA Visage Multiple White Whitening Scrub

NIVEA VISAGE
MULTIPLE WHITE
WHITENING FOAM
With White Pure Active & Moisturiser
Clarifies and supports skin lightening

WHITENING Foam

Whitening products for women of different ages

MOST Asian women want fairer skin free from freckles and dark spots. But because women of different ages have different skincare needs, it's hard to find the product that not only whitens skin but gives just the right kind of care.

Recognizing this, Nivea presents a range of products formulated specifically to provide whitening skincare for women of different age groups.

Nivea Visage Multiple Whitening Cream 20+ provides whitening care without the shine, perfect for women ages 18-30. It has SPF 15 to provide sun protection. On the other hand, women ages 31-50 now have Nivea Visage Multiple Whitening Cream 30+, which is also formulated with anti-aging plus SPF 30 for protection under the sun.

Both moisturizers contain White Pure Active, a natural-derived ingredient that works in harmony with the skin by reducing skin's pigmentation at its source with UVA/UVB filters to maintain fair skin.

Nivea Visage Multiple White line also features other complementary skincare products such as Whitening Foam, Whitening Scrub, Whitening Toner, Whitening Fluid and Whitening Night Cream.

The Foam is perfect for daily cleansing as it helps remove impurities that make skin look dull. The Scrub, on the other hand, deeply purifies skin, and gently exfoliates dark, dead skin cells. To complete the cleansing routine, the Toner also has Pro-Vitamin B5 to refresh and cleanse the skin without drying.

After cleansing, one can put on the Multiple Whitening Fluid during the day. The fluid is perfect for women with oily skin, as its light texture easily penetrates the skin. It has the Pro Multiple White Complex that contains White Pure Active and SPF 15 especially designed to lighten and maintain fair skin.

The skin's whitening needs are different from day to night, which is why Nivea Visage introduces the Multiple Whitening Night Cream. It contains a Whitening Night Complex that consists of White Pure Active and Vitamin A, which works to whiten and regenerate skin while one sleeps. Make the cream a part of your nightly routine by applying it on the face after cleansing.

NIVEA VISAGE
MULTIPLE WHITE
WHITENING TONER
With White Pure Active & Pro Vitamin B5
Refreshes and supports skin lightening

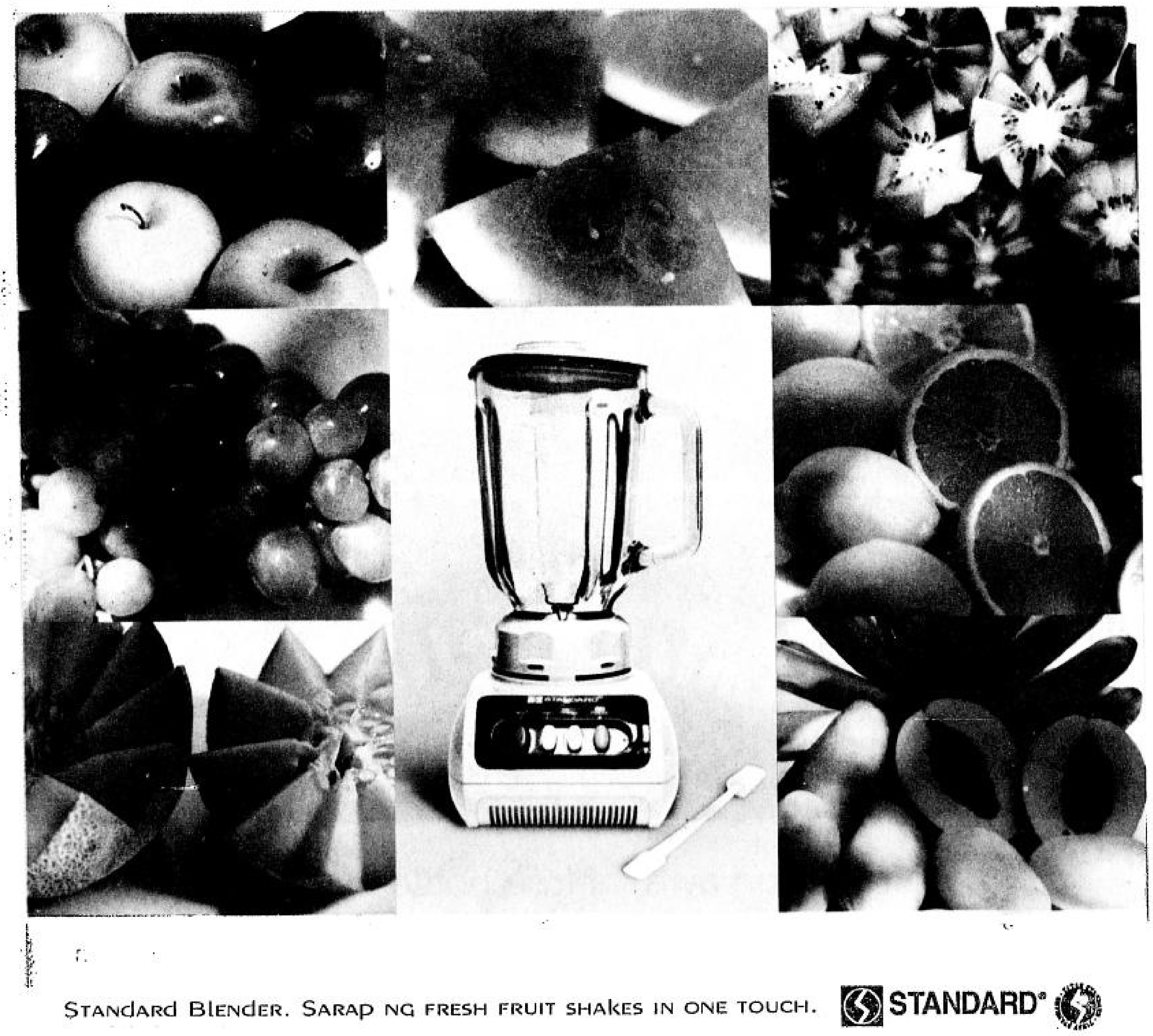
WHITENING Toner

NIVEA VISAGE
MULTIPLE WHITENING CREAM
30+

MULTIPLE Whitening Cream 30+

NIVEA
MULTIPLE WHITE
MULTIPLE WHITENING NIGHT CREAM

MULTIPLE Whitening Night Cream


Standard Blender. Sarap ng fresh fruit shakes in one touch. STANDARD®

TRENDY Tracy Reese /E2

Our tabloid lifestyle

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Why trash and tacky sells

LAST Friday while our gourmand appetite was being put to the test by a good gourmet dinner at Gourmand at the Fort, we had an impromptu entertainment. "Hello, Garci… hello Garci" came the sound from the next table. Those diners were playing the "it" ring tone and cracking up over it. And so were the other tables which could catch that high-pitched grate of a voice.

People toying with the ring tone are getting a kick out of a lethal blow to democracy—if indeed the allegation of election rigging is true. As the state of affairs gets more exasperating, our sense of "humor"—on 24-hour call as usual—is getting more and more bizarre. It's not even nervous laughter anymore. Not only is our humor jaded, it's also detached and dead to reality, like a zombie. Our vote and just about every national institution have become a joke—"text-able" and exportable. Talk about a new revenue stream.

Scandal is lucrative if you can turn it into a media fare and hype. Public striptease—figuratively, if not literally—sells. Ditto with baring your guts, if not your lipo-suctioned body. Self-disembowelment in public not only pays, it is copied. As our Metro Him editor in chief **Carlo Tadiar** said in intermittent soliloquy during our long drive to Quezon over the weekend: "What to do now… tacky sells."

Be tackier than the other? Trash and tacky sells. It's the tabloid lifestyle. Reality TV lets you zoom in on everything, all the way to the toilet bowl. I'm not exaggerating: I can't forget the reality TV segment I saw where **Lorna Tolentino** and company, playing caretaker of the impaired and the elderly in Canada, showed before the camera the soiled, brown-stained diaper of their ward. Gross.

Yet that's not the height of tackiness. The height is when even your sense of style—and values—is corrupted. There's no dividing line anymore between good and bad taste, between what's appropriate and what's not.

Decades ago, people decried the new rich. Now you realize to be "new rich" is not the worst crime there is. Not even the opulence that comes with it. It's when the new wealth is ill-gotten and it's flaunted. Yet again, people think it's all right, if not cool.

Think of politicians and bureaucrats who barrel down South Superhighway, during bumper-to-bumper traffic, in their yacht-size vehicles complete with sirens, and expecting

OUR/ E3

REDHEADS ENJOY THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS WITH

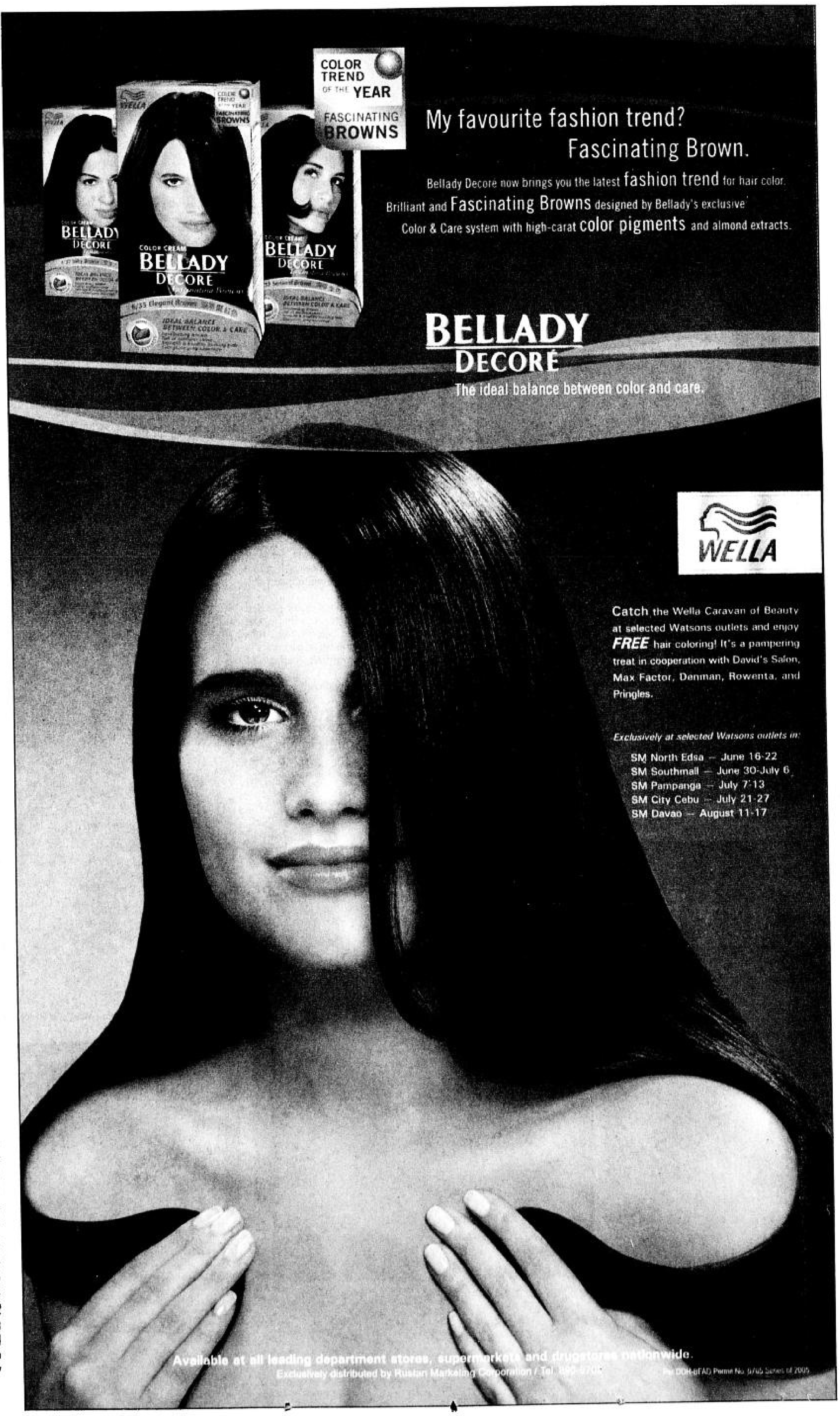
WELLA

June 2005.....Redheads are hot! Between blond and brunette, red treads the middle ground that lets you have the best of both worlds! Do-it-yourself with the "Red Specials" of ***Bellady Decoré by Wella.*** Choose from Volcano Red to Wild Plum, and other fabulous shades guaranteed to change your look from "so-so" to "stunning" in one easy application.

Bellady Decoré comes in a special creamy formula that allows optimum color distribution for even and intensive coverage from roots to tips. Its reds boast of the revolutionary pigment pr5, which ensures vibrant color - and shine - that lasts! And it doesn't just color, its exclusive "care system" pampers your hair as well. Almond extracts, D-Panthenol, and Vitamin E work triple time to moisturize and condition.

So what are you waiting for? Be the "fox" you've always wanted to be - with ***Bellady Decoré Red Specials from Wella.*** For best results, use with ***Wella Decoré Care Shampoo*** and ***Conditioner,*** and follow with ***Wella Decoré Care Treatment*** twice weekly. This color protection range is formulated to give chemically-treated hair the special care it needs with the same nourishing ingredients that enhance color and shine.

Wella Bellady Decoré and ***Wella Decoré Care*** range are exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation in leading department stores, health and beauty shops, drugstores, and supermarkets nationwide. Check out its benefits from the Wella "Caravan of Beauty" at Watson's outlets in SM Southmall Las Pinas - June 30-July 6; SM Pampanga - July 7-13; SM Cebu - July 21-27; and SM Davao - August 11-17, 2005! This pampering treat includes FREE on-the-spot hair coloring with Wella by ***David's Salon*** stylists, makeup by ***Max Factor***, in cooperation with ***Denman*** (hairbrushes) and ***Rowenta*** (hairdryers), plus the chance to browse through ***Summit Media*** magazines, while you munch on ***Pringles***! Get all these when you buy a bottle of ***Bellady Decoré*** from any participating Watson's outlet.



Bellady Decoré now brings you the latest fashion trend for hair color. Brilliant and Fascinating Browns designed by Bellady's exclusive Color & Care system with high-carat color pigments and almond extracts.

Catch the Wella Caravan of Beauty at selected Watsons outlets and enjoy ***FREE*** hair coloring! It's a pampering treat in cooperation with David's Salon, Max Factor, Denman, Rowenta, and Pringles.

Exclusively at selected Watsons outlets in:

SM North Edsa — June 16-22
SM Southmall — June 30-July 6
SM Pampanga — July 7-13
SM City Cebu — July 21-27
SM Davao — August 11-17

Available at all leading department stores, supermarkets and drugstores nationwide.
Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation / Tel. [illegible]
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2005

ANTIQUE floral bouquet strapless dress

Plenty of Style

VAN GOGH lace-trimmed frock

LILAC beaded dress

TIE-DYE striped empire blouse and rattlesnake skirt

THE BOHO Luxe look is the motif of New York designer Tracy Reese's fanciful collection for Plenty.

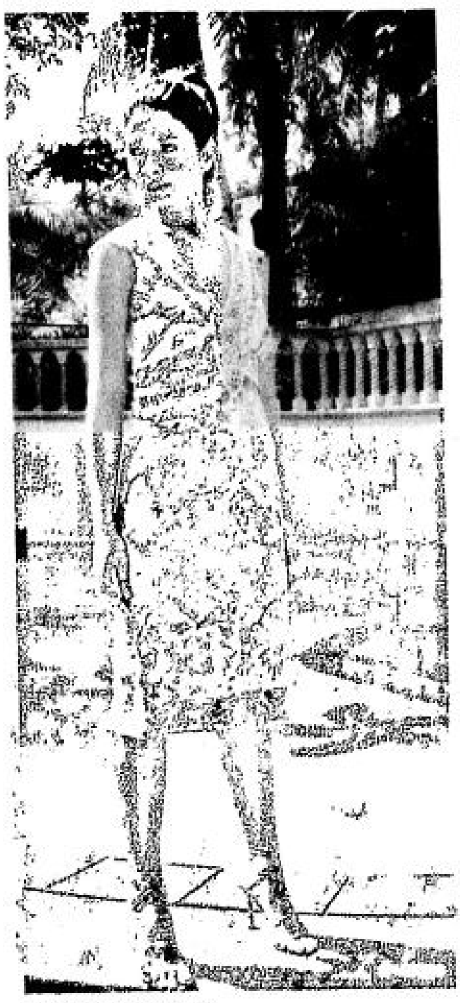
The collection has bright colors, intricate patterns, unusual prints, fabulous beading and delicate embroidery to epitomize feminine chic.

Swing coats, romantic floral skirts, jeweled foulard tops, beaded *kurtas*, antique eyelet slip dresses, embroidered boleros, tunic tops and peasant frocks come alive to create a whimsical and breezy wardrobe perfect for the season.

A hot seller at specialty stores across the US, including Bergdorf Goodman, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue and Scoop, Plenty is available in the Philippines exclusively at MIX, Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center, Makati City.

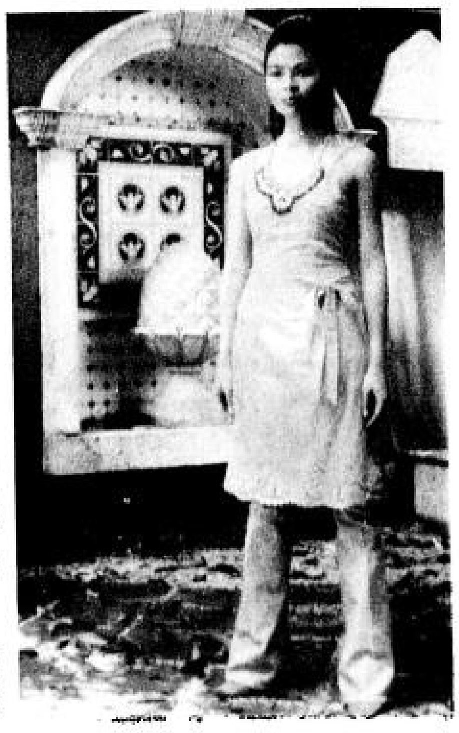
MODEL: RISSA MANANQUIL-SAMSON
PHOTOS: JOANNE ZAPANTA-ANDRADA
MAKE UP: ERIC MANINGAT OF TRENDSET CORP.
STYLING: MIA BORROMEO
LOCATION: TESSA PRIETO'S HOUSE
SHOOT COORDINATOR: CARL YADAO
SHOES: TINA OCAMPO

LEMON lace bolero, old-rose skirt and white tank top (model's own)



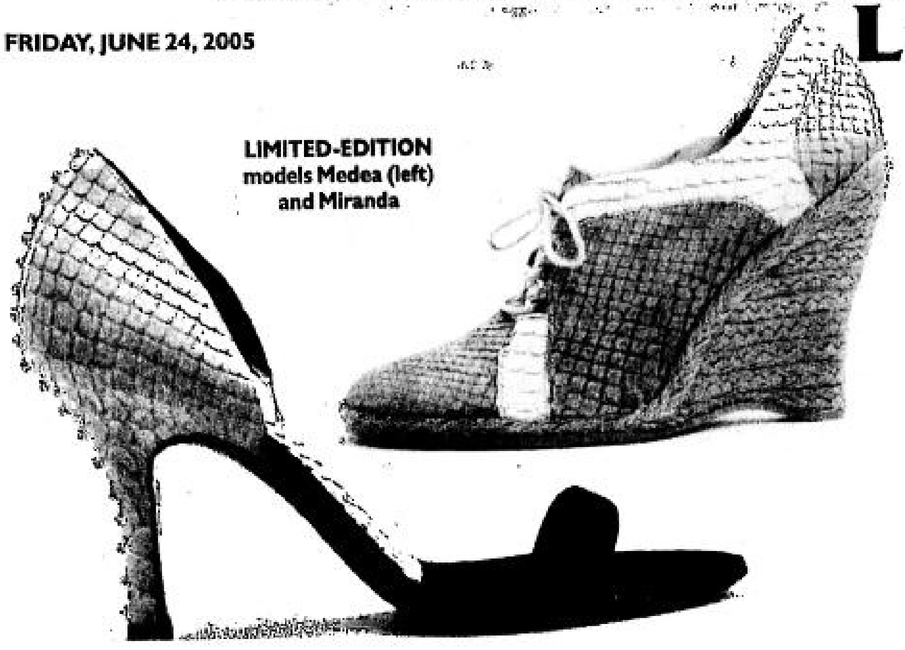
CHINTZ floral frock

BRICK swing coat and khaki full skirt



SPICY orange sundress, jeans by Citizens of Humanity, and emerald necklace

JADE floral jacket and white-aqua eyelet slip dress



LIMITED-EDITION models Medea (left) and Miranda

Reinventing femininity

TWO new-concept creations, inspired by a challenge to reinvent the idea of femininity through a new interpretation of the exclusive Salvatore Ferragamo tradition, were launched recently.

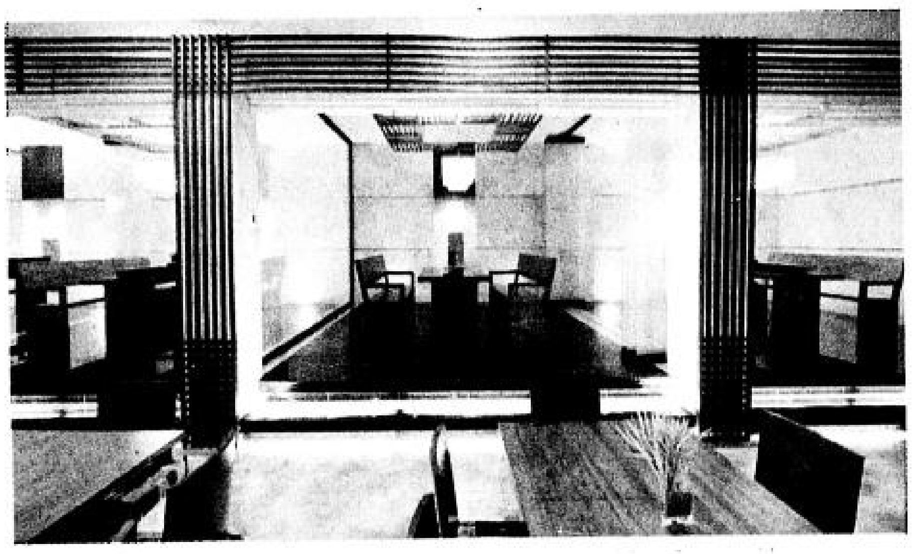
Miranda, with a wooden, rope-lined heel and sporty uppers, is made of hand *nabuk*-finished python skin with a "spectator" two-toned effect. The name is a tribute to Brazilian singer Carmen Miranda, a great client of Salvatore Ferragamo in the '30s, who loved wearing wedge shoes with innovative shapes and colors.

Medea, a black satin sandal with the entire heel and quarter in pink *nabuk* python skin, is decorated with a hand-stitched row of Swarovski crystals highlighting the shoe's sinuous line. Contrasts give character to a model that's elegant as shown by its very name that brings to mind the character in a Greek tragedy torn by two extreme personalities.

The limited edition models, Medea and Miranda, are only available in Salvatore Ferragamo stores in Rome, Milan and Florence, with dedicated window displays.

In a special co-marketing operation, the "Colette" concept-store in Paris will become the sole distributor in France. The prestigious magazine Stiletto ran a special feature on the two models in one of its recent issues.

In the Philippines, Salvatore Ferragamo, exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Shops, are at The Power Plant Mall Rockwell Center, Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Tower, Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Ayala Cebu.



MIZU interiors

Our tabloid lifestyle

From page E1

other motorists to yield their cramped space.

Not only does trash and tacky sell, but also, the bar, as they call it, has been set so low that you'd be hard put to point out to your kids what is poor taste, simply because it's rare to find and see good taste to compare it against.

Indeed, corruption has gone beyond politics or economics, and into our way of life and standards of taste.

If it's any consolation to the Filipino, tacky knows no borders. It's also gone global. Must be the era. (Or must be my age, why we find so many things tacky.)

The Cardinal

I will always remember the breakfast interview I had with **Jaime Cardinal Sin** a long time ago. I wanted to ask what he thought of this budding religious cult that was making the news. His spokesperson then, **Felix Bautista** (now departed), and close-in photographer **Noli Yamsuan**, helped arrange it. The first thing he said, before I could even take a bite of my *longganiza*, was that someone had just sent him a "tape" and wanted him to listen to it. What was in that tape, I asked.

"The voice of the Virgin Mary," he said, deadpan as if to say it was business as usual. Seeing my incredulous look, he laughed. After that tape, I knew I didn't have to mine his thoughts about the cult; it didn't take much to know what he thought of it.

One great gift the Cardinal had was to go down to earth, even down to the muck that is politics, while bearing his spiritual agenda. He could make everything, even the taped voice of the "Virgin Mary" seem commonplace. He could laugh off a hoax and preach down a dictator. Then he could elevate and make even the commonplace (including politics) uplifting.

Indeed, an era is gone with the Cardinal's passing.

Cebu mindset

One gets the feeling sometimes that Cebu is oblivious to Manila. Or is that an understatement? No matter the mess and political turbulence in mega Manila, this bastion in the South goes about its normal lucrative lifestyle.

Recently the Cebu power crowd turned out for the first Japanese restaurant in Cebu to follow the lifestyle concept. Mizu (meaning water) at Waterfront blends authentic Japanese dining with various lifestyle moods—meaning it's a place for lunch, dinner, and after dinner, it becomes a hip bar with extensive collection of premium wine and spirits, including sake and *soju*, and after-10 menu.

Waterfront general manager **Marco Protacio** cooked up a launch event that had drama and flair, complete with the breaking of the sake barrel, following a Japanese custom. This ritual signifies the beginning of a happy and prosperous time (told you Cebu mindset is the opposite of Manila's), a milestone. Doing the rites with Marco were **Anette Kuo-Gatchalian**, **Rosebud Sala**, Japanese vice consul **Shingo Inao**, and Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry secretary general **Toshiyuki Haga**.

Mizu has the culinary innovations of master chef **Nobuyuki Imamura** from Yanagawa City. Its interiors are so Zen, designed by A. Ilustre and Associates, with one wall painted gold, with gold slabs inscribed on which are haikus by the poet **Basho**.

In the evening, the cool Zen interiors shed their calm ambiance and become a hive-high energy and after-dark bonding. The magic is evoked by good food, spirits—and lighting.

Time was when the diner's lifestyle adapted to the type of restaurant. Today, the restaurant transforms, depending on the lifestyle and mood of the diner—all in a day and night.

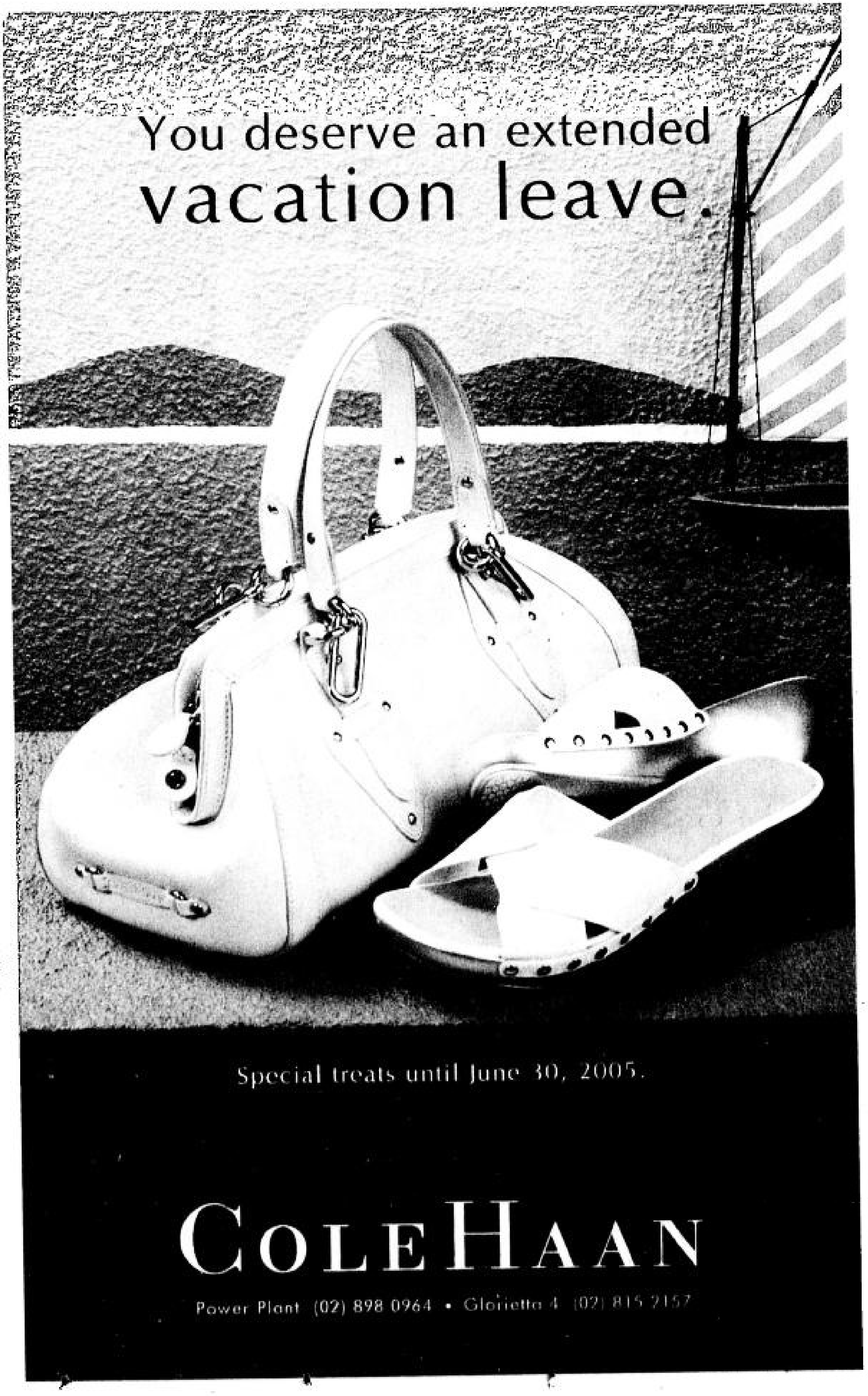
E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

WATERFRONT general manager Marco Protacio (left) with guests

ESTABLISHED 1970
Paolo B. Bediones
TV Host/Media Personality
Gear up for any challenge!
SWATCH seasider

Available at Canvas stores in Robinson's Pioneer Mandaluyong and Blue Wave Marquinton Marikina, all SM, Robinson's, and Gaisano Metro Dept. Stores, Landmark, Sta. Lucia, Ever Grand Central, Isetann, Fairmart, and Marikina Riverbanks Shoe Gallery. Log on to www.swatchseasider.com.ph for a complete list of nationwide outlets.

Distributed by Trident International Trading Corporation. ©1986 Swatch Seasider


You deserve an extended vacation leave.
Special treats until June 30, 2005.
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DIVA ZsaZsa Padilla's pick of the night—a pink Axcent broadband

AXCENT bosses Grace Tan, Manisha Khemlanin and Murli Menon enjoy the party.

BOB McCubing, trade consul for the Canadian embassy, tries on white Axcent Eccentric.

MEN'Sfashion

FOR MEN ONLY SALE

June 1-30

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wears • shoes • luggage • accessories • wears • shoes • luggage • accessories

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[illegible] • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA
[illegible] CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO

Watches tell more than just time

AXCENT of Scandinavia makes watches more than just serviceable.

Its watches come in bold and striking designs that are distinctly Scandinavian. Numerous designs will let you choose what will match your mood, your shoes or clothes.

At affordable prices, you can have an Axcent timepiece to complement the fashion statement you try to make with your clothes.

Axcent teamed up with top fashion designer Rajo Laurel at his pink birthday bash and retrospective exhibit at the Hidalgo Place in Rockwell. Watches were especially chosen to go with the gowns in varying shades of pink, most of them made for Filipino celebrities and from the designer's private collection.

Pops Fernandez's gown was matched with a pink "Broadband Sparkling Chic Design" by Petra Nygren. The timepiece was accented with Swarovski crystals. Sarah Geronimo's gown was paired with a pink Axcent "Broadband," the brand's best-selling timepiece in over 40 countries and known as a "celebrity watch."

Laurel wore "Rocker," a daring combination of metal and raw leather inspired by today's fashion that feature wide belts and metal-studded bags and shoes.

Other watches displayed were "Seduction," a sexy complement to a party outfit or a business suit, which complemented Bianca Araneta's gown. The "Slip On" watch, inspired by the sexy lace-up stilettos, went with Regine Velasquez's gown.

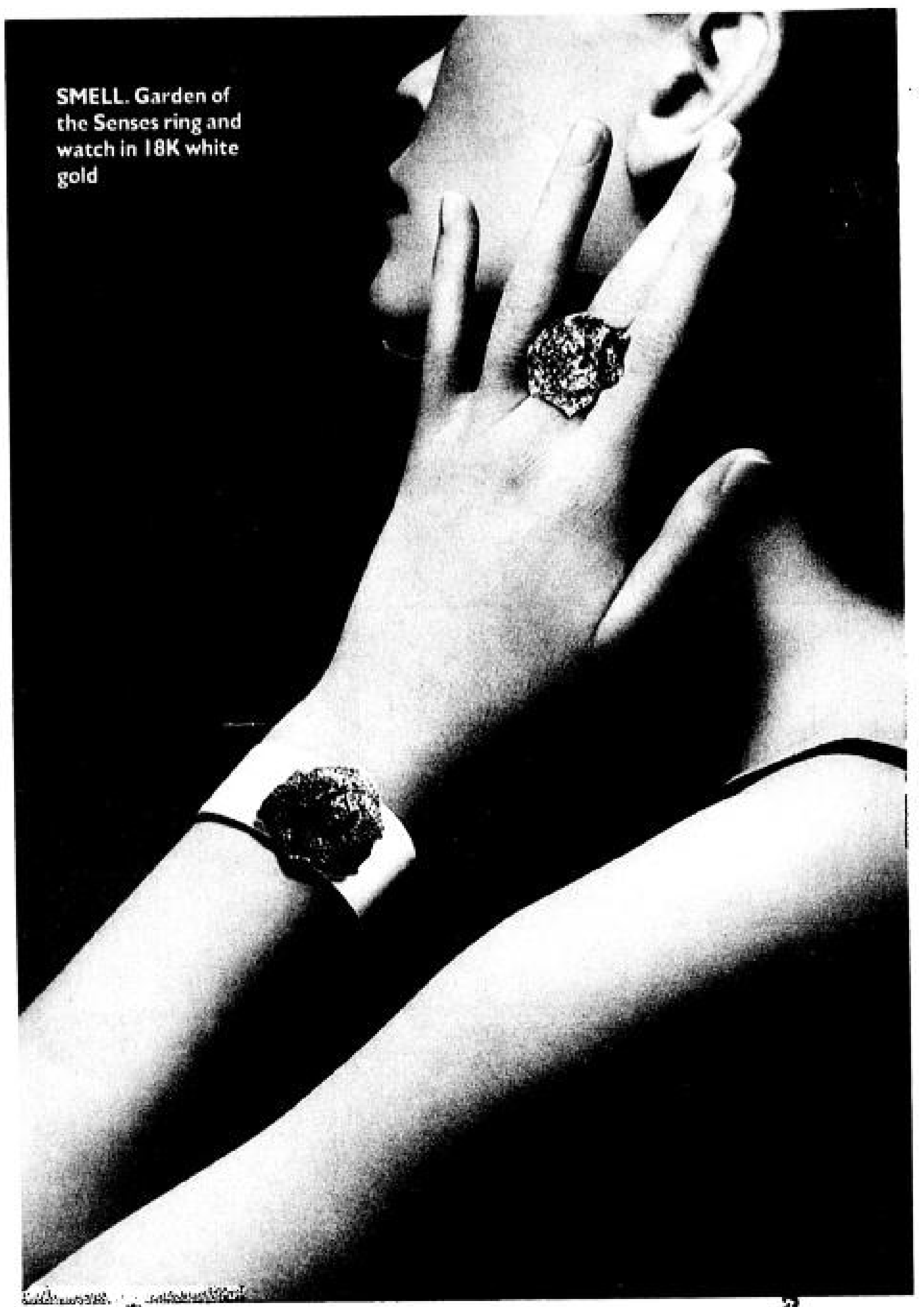
Influenced by the '60s science-fiction stories, "Sphere" was chic, big and bold, suitable for casual or evening wear. "Gravity" was designed to mimic the buoyant and weightless space. "Atomic," designed by Daniel Jacobsson, was inspired by the watches of the '60s and '80s.

"Eccentric" drew attention to its bold visual appearance and sharp lines.

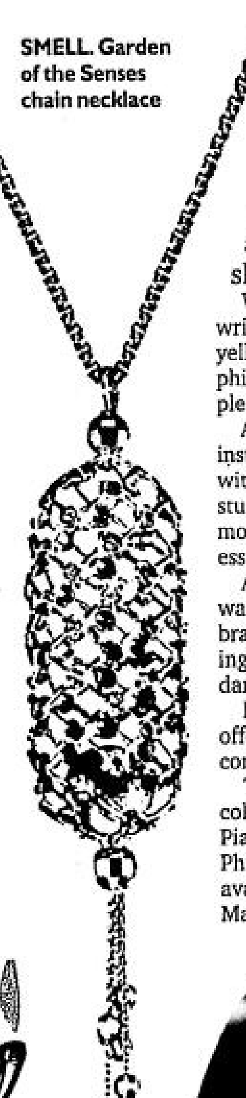
Axcent Watches are available at Watch Republic Powerplant Mall, Watch Republic in Market! Market!, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, and Rustan's Shangri-La.

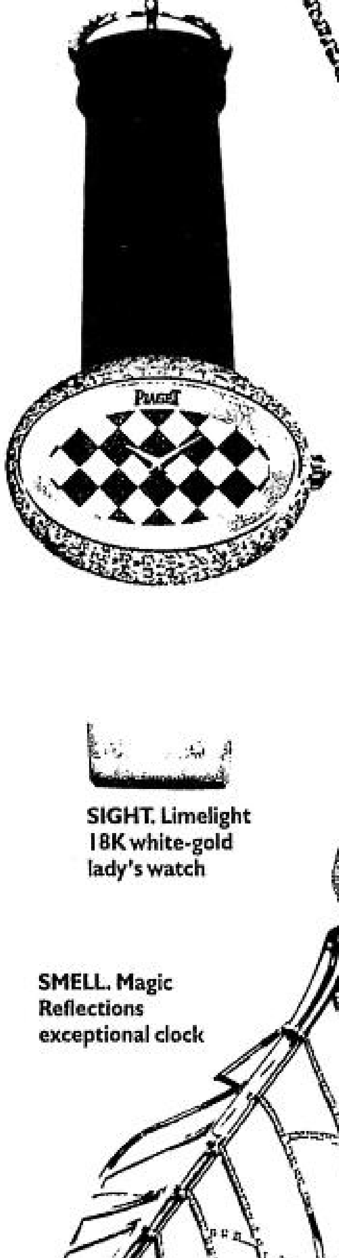
Axcent of Scandinavia is distributed exclusively by Newtrends International Corporation. E-mail mbmarketing@newtrends.com.ph.

"Seduction" complements Bianca Araneta's gown.


SMELL. Garden of the Senses ring and watch in 18K white gold

Garden of the senses blooms


SMELL. Garden of the Senses chain necklace


SIGHT. Limelight 18K white-gold lady's watch

PIAGET's Garden of the Senses collection merges the art of master watchmakers and master jewelers in a showcase of creativity.

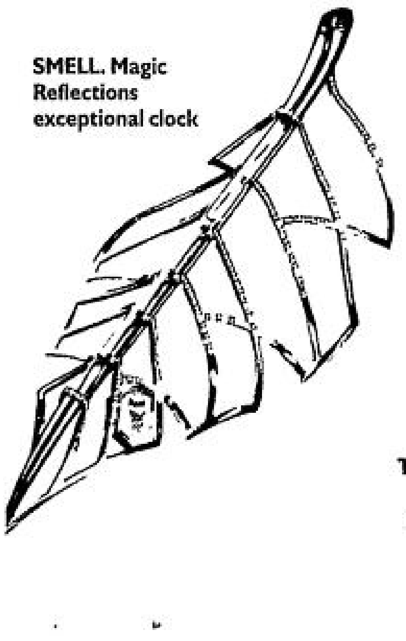
Watches may be strapped to the wrist or pinned to a lapel. White or yellow gold jewelry sets, with sapphires and diamonds, feature multiple hexagonal facets.

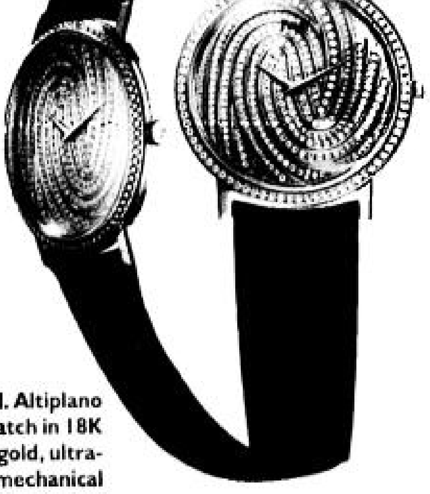
A piece inspired by the rose, for instance, a flower long associated with Piaget, is softly rounded and studded with sapphires and diamonds. It is designed to express the essence of happiness.

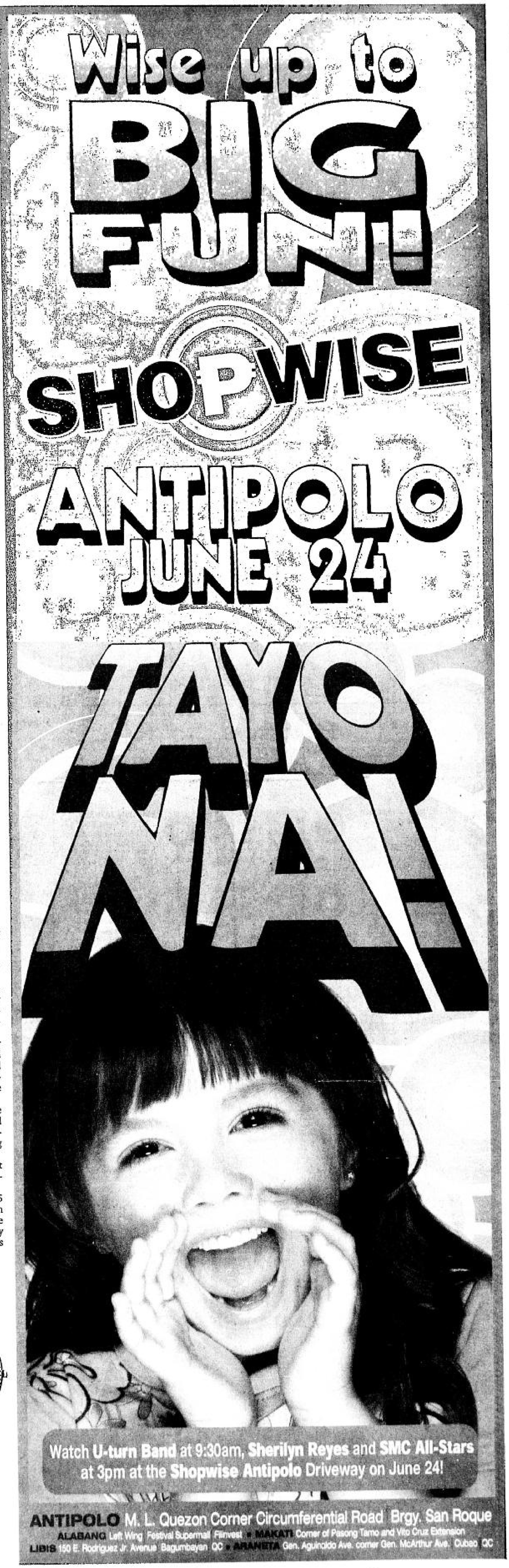
A mosaic of colors lights up the watch dials. The necklace and bracelet, as they sway, reveal varying shades of blue in a sparkling dance of sapphires.

In its Garden of the Senses, Piaget offers moments that will likely become memorable.

The Garden of the Senses 2005 collection will soon be available in Piaget boutiques worldwide. In the Philippines, Piaget is exclusively available in Silver Vault, Rustan's Makati.


SMELL. Magic Reflections exceptional clock


TOUCH. Altiplano XL watch in 18K white gold, ultra-thin mechanical hand-wind

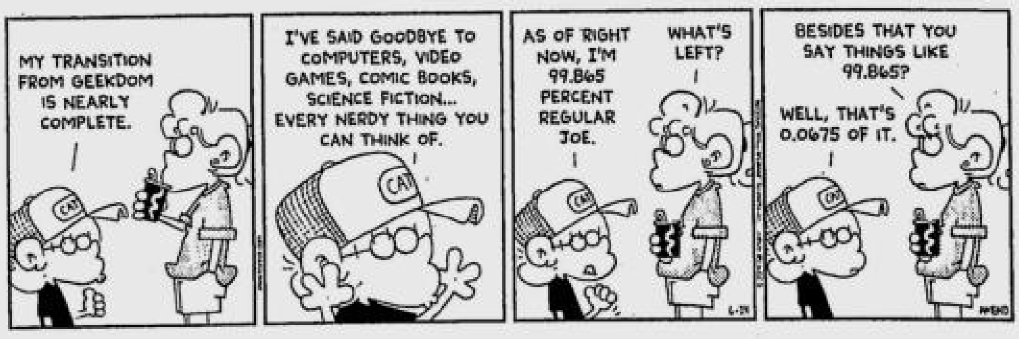


Watch **U-turn Band** at 9:30am, **Sherilyn Reyes** and **SMC All-Stars** at 3pm at the **Shopwise Antipolo** Driveway on June 24!

ANTIPOLO M. L. Quezon Corner Circumferential Road Brgy. San Roque
ALABANG Left Wing Festival Supermall Filinvest • **MAKATI** Corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Extension
LIBIS 150 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue Bagumbayan QC • **ARANETA** Gen. Aguinaldo Ave. corner Gen. McArthur Ave. Cubao QC

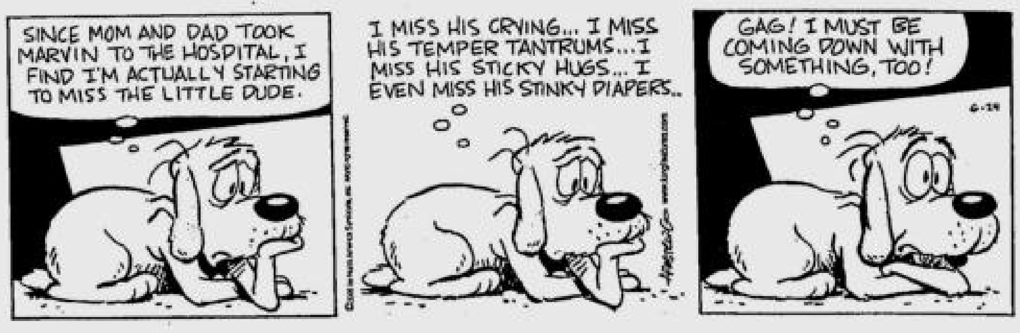
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MY TRANSITION FROM GEEKDOM IS NEARLY COMPLETE.
I'VE SAID GOODBYE TO COMPUTERS, VIDEO GAMES, COMIC BOOKS, SCIENCE FICTION... EVERY NERDY THING YOU CAN THINK OF.
AS OF RIGHT NOW, I'M 99.865 PERCENT REGULAR JOE.
WHAT'S LEFT?
BESIDES THAT YOU SAY THINGS LIKE 99.865?
WELL, THAT'S 0.0675 OF IT.
CAT

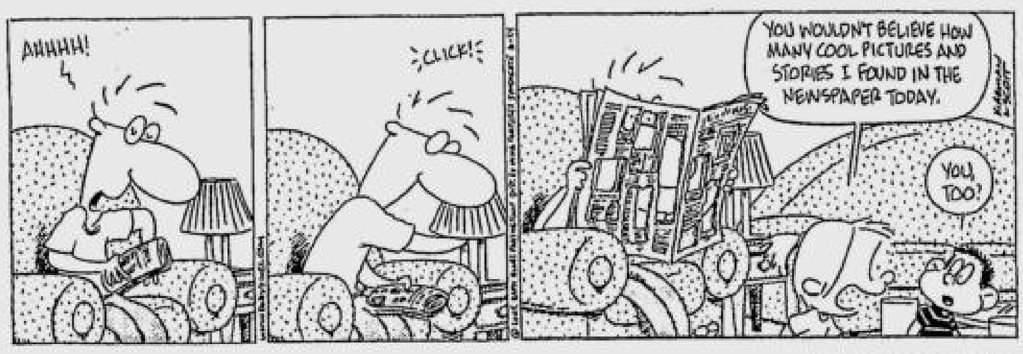
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SINCE MOM AND DAD TOOK MARVIN TO THE HOSPITAL, I FIND I'M ACTUALLY STARTING TO MISS THE LITTLE DUDE.
I MISS HIS CRYING... I MISS HIS TEMPER TANTRUMS...I MISS HIS STICKY HUGS... I EVEN MISS HIS STINKY DIAPERS..
GAG! I MUST BE COMING DOWN WITH SOMETHING, TOO!

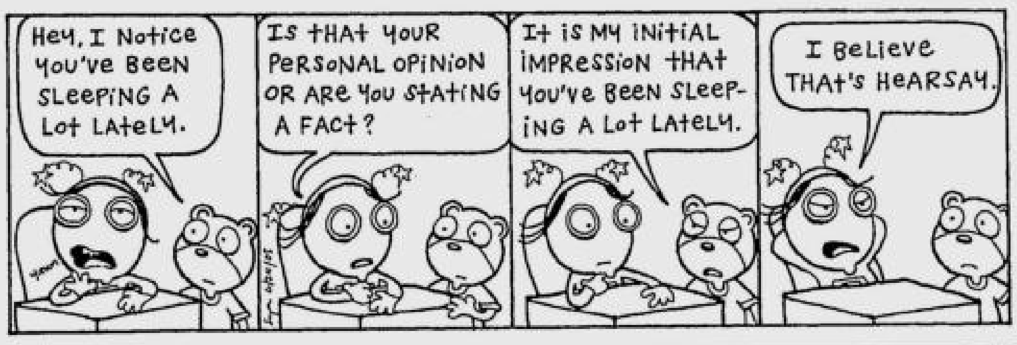
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


AHHHH!
CLICK!
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY COOL PICTURES AND STORIES I FOUND IN THE NEWSPAPER TODAY.
YOU TOO?

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, I Notice You've Been SLeePiNG A Lot LAteLy.
Is tHAt YouR PeRSoNAL oPiNioN oR ARe You StAtiNG A FAct?
It is MY iNitiAL iMPRessioN tHAt You've BeeN SLeePiNG A Lot LAteLy.
I BeLieve THAt's HeARSAY.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Generally, you are totally absorbed with whatever you do. You give everything your all. Privately, you have strong ethics and high ideals. You value spiritual qualities of love and compassion. You bring your own unique approach to whatever you do. You often have great technical skills. The year ahead is full of beginnings and new cycles. Birthdate of: Sherry Stringfield, actress; Jeff Beck, musician; Mick Fleetwood, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You need more physical exercise right now. You have tons of energy! Exercise is a good way to burn off some of this extra steam. If you don't do this, you'll feel impatient and short with others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might do something that calls attention to yourself today. For some reason, you're briefly in the public eye. Be careful you don't overestimate something at work. (That's easy to do right now.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Someone from a different country or a different culture might have something interesting to teach you today. Be open to new ideas from unexpected sources.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're extremely ambitious now. You've got big ideas and big plans. You might be able to use the resources of others to help you make something happen.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Travel plans or opportunities to increase your training or education in some way look good now. It's important to be realistic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a busy day. You can get a lot done, especially if you agree on how to use something somebody else owns. Be reasonable. Be prepared to go more than halfway.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Differences with friends and partners are a bit prickly today. Either one of you might go overboard in your demands, your wishes or your opinions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You've got lots of energy today. (And that's saying something, because you have willpower and stamina.) A family member needs your attention as well.

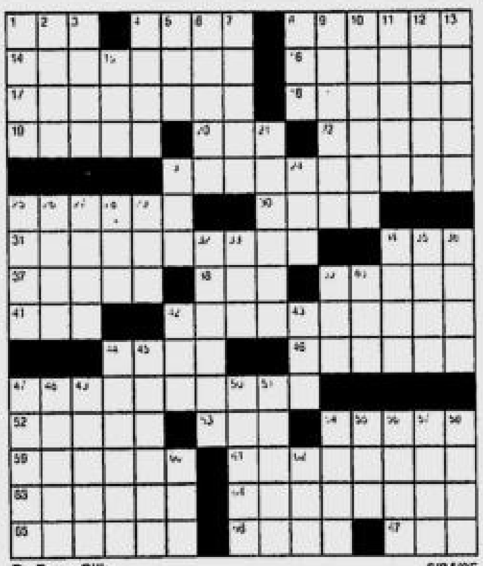
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Many of you are gamblers at heart. Be careful today, because things might look better than they really are. You could overdo drinking, partying, spending money—anything.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your plans to make changes at home are good. But you might want to temper them in the next few days. Ask yourself if they're realistic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might be too forceful today. Remember: The snake needs to shed its skin once a year to stay alive, but if you rip its skin off, you'll kill it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're definitely tempted to go overboard spending money today. Some of you are going overboard trying to earn it. Either way, take it down a notch. (You'll be glad you did.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

6/24/05

ACROSS
1 Little devil
4 Con job
8 Mutual-assistance type of network
14 Escape clause
16 Pancho's poncho
17 Salvages, another way?
18 Balance
19 Nullifies
20 Animal gullet
22 Backbone
23 One less gal, another way?
25 Millstream channel
30 Cambodia neighbor
31 Can't say ski, another way?
34 NASA outpost
37 Linguistic quirk
38 Washington bill
39 Cyber message
41 L.A. hrs.
42 Acorn meats, another way?
44 Fraudulent event
46 Evenfall
47 No renewals, another way?
52 Shaped like Humpty Dumpty
53 Dr. of rap
54 Thong
59 Face
61 Diagnose, another way?
63 Movement
64 Poisonous shrub
65 Isaac and Howard
66 Narrow stretch
67 Wind dir.

DOWN
1 Misfortunes
2 Castle defense
3 Stance
4 "__ Gotta Have It"
5 Sprocket
6 San Antonio landmark
7 Tablelands
8 C.I.A. forerunner
9 C'mon!
10 Heavy curtains
11 Pesto herb
12 Speak one's mind
13 Positive replies
15 AUS enlistee
21 Newsman Cronkite
23 Aspin or Brown
24 Anti vote
25 Pass over
26 Fellas
27 Module
28 Late starter?
29 Machinery part
32 Wheedled
33 Corporate abbr.
34 Holm and McKellen
35 Web location
36 Coin channel
39 Big bird Down Under
40 Stag attendees
42 "My Gal __"
43 Pack animal
44 Empty talk
45 Beaver State
47 Exploding stars
48 Kick out
49 Fritter away
50 Fiery felony
51 Fraser of tennis
54 Mt. Rushmore's state
55 Malleable metal
56 Wine list section
57 A month of Sundays
58 Skin opening
60 Nixon's bookends?
62 Required: abbr.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	I	C	S	■	B	L	E	A	K	■	P	S	A	T
S	T	O	P	■	R	E	V	U	E	■	O	N	T	O
S	O	M	E	T	I	M	E	S	Y	O	U	A	R	E
T	O	P	D	O	G	■	■	T	E	A	R	G	A	S
■	■	L	U	X	■	C	H	E	S	T	■	■	■	■
T	H	E	P	I	G	E	O	N	■	E	S	T	E	S
B	O	X	■	C	L	O	T	■	B	R	E	A	S	T
O	P	I	E	■	E	S	S	A	Y	■	A	S	T	A
N	O	O	D	L	E	■	P	C	T	S	■	K	E	Y
E	N	N	U	I	■	S	O	M	E	T	I	M	E	S
■	■	■	■	N	O	L	T	E	■	O	N	A	■	■
P	L	A	C	E	B	O	■	■	T	A	S	S	E	L
Y	O	U	A	R	E	T	H	E	S	T	A	T	U	E
L	I	L	T	■	S	H	A	N	A	■	N	E	R	O
E	N	D	S	■	E	S	T	E	R	■	E	R	O	S

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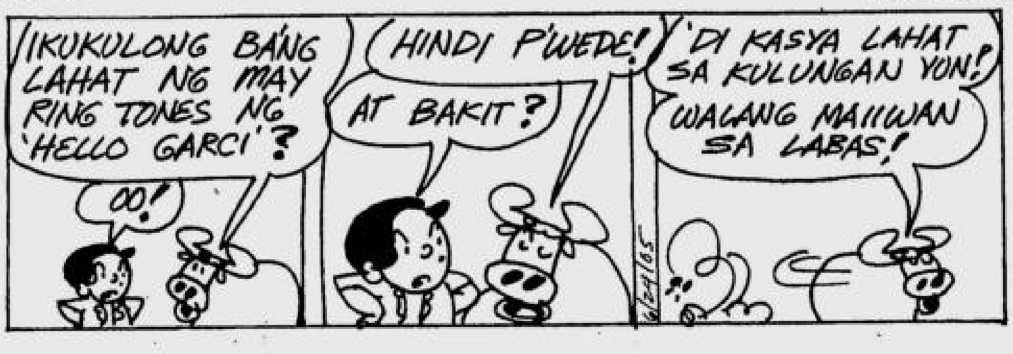
6/24/05

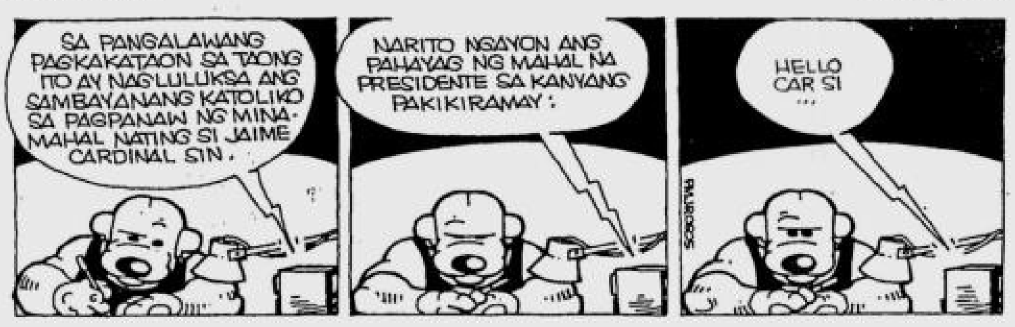
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


IKUKULONG BANG LAHAT NG MAY RING TONES NG 'HELLO GARCI'?
OO!
HINDI P'WEDE!
AT BAKIT?
'DI KASYA LAHAT SA KULUNGAN YON!
WALANG MAIIWAN SA LABAS!

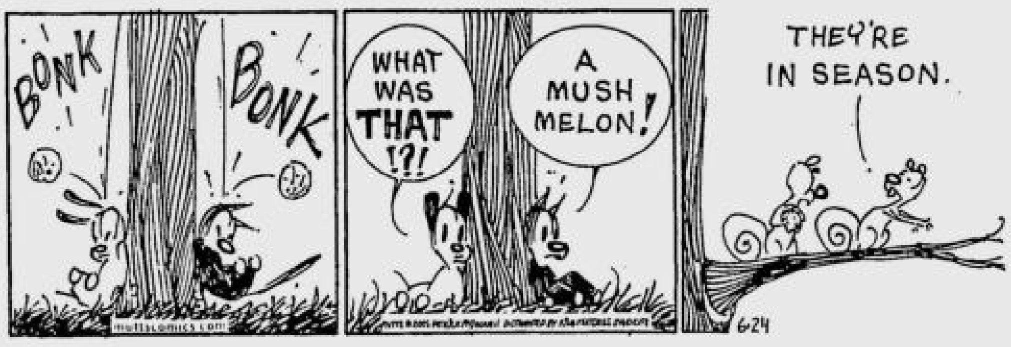
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA PANGALAWANG PAGKAKATAON SA TAONG ITO AY NAGLULUKSA ANG SAMBAYANANG KATOLIKO SA PAGPANAW NG MINAMAHAL NATING SI JAIME CARDINAL SIN.
NARITO NGAYON ANG PAHAYAG NG MAHAL NA PRESIDENTE SA KANYANG PAKIKIRAMAY:
HELLO CAR SI ...

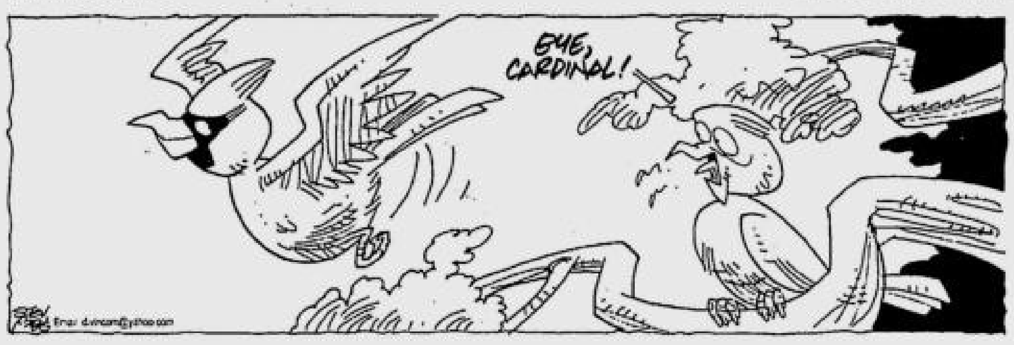
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BONK
BONK
WHAT WAS THAT !?!
A MUSH MELON!
THEY'RE IN SEASON.

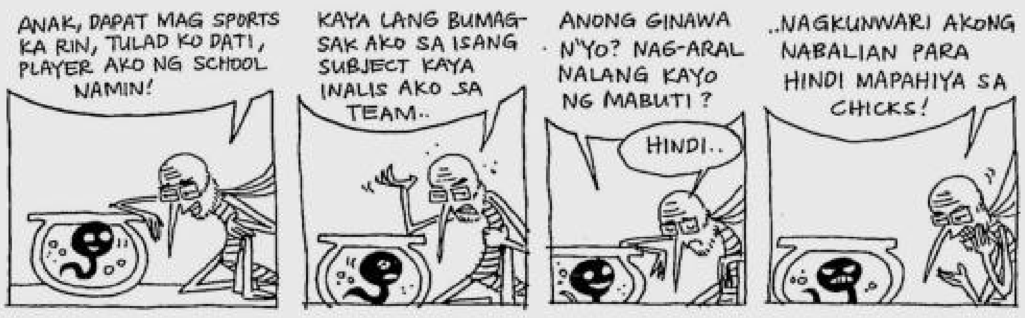
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BYE, CARDINAL!

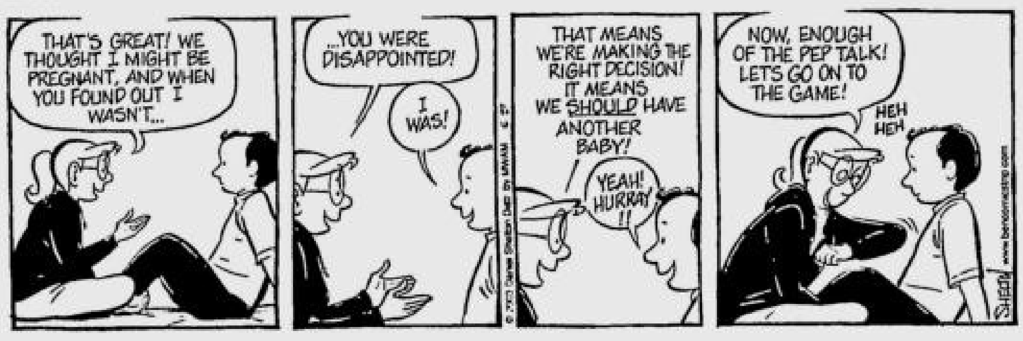
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANAK, DAPAT MAG SPORTS KA RIN, TULAD KO DATI, PLAYER AKO NG SCHOOL NAMIN!
KAYA LANG BUMAGSAK AKO SA ISANG SUBJECT KAYA INALIS AKO SA TEAM..
ANONG GINAWA N'YO? NAG-ARAL NALANG KAYO NG MABUTI?
HINDI..
..NAGKUNWARI AKONG NABALIAN PARA HINDI MAPAHIYA SA CHICKS!

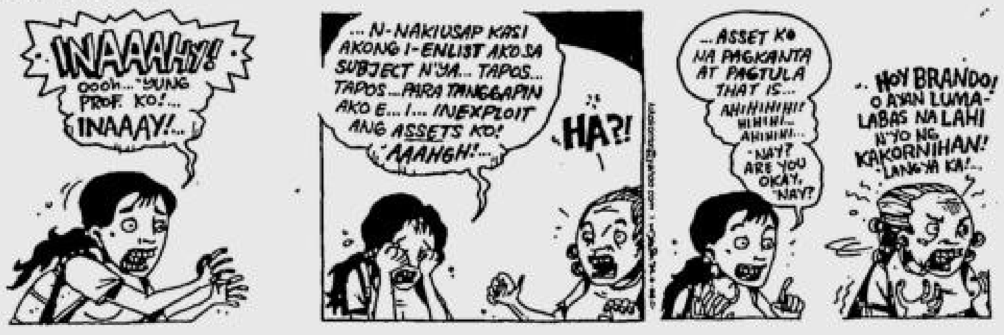
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THAT'S GREAT! WE THOUGHT I MIGHT BE PREGNANT, AND WHEN YOU FOUND OUT I WASN'T...
...YOU WERE DISAPPOINTED!
I WAS!
THAT MEANS WE'RE MAKING THE RIGHT DECISION! IT MEANS WE SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER BABY!
YEAH! HURRAY!!
NOW, ENOUGH OF THE PEP TALK! LET'S GO ON TO THE GAME!
HEH HEH

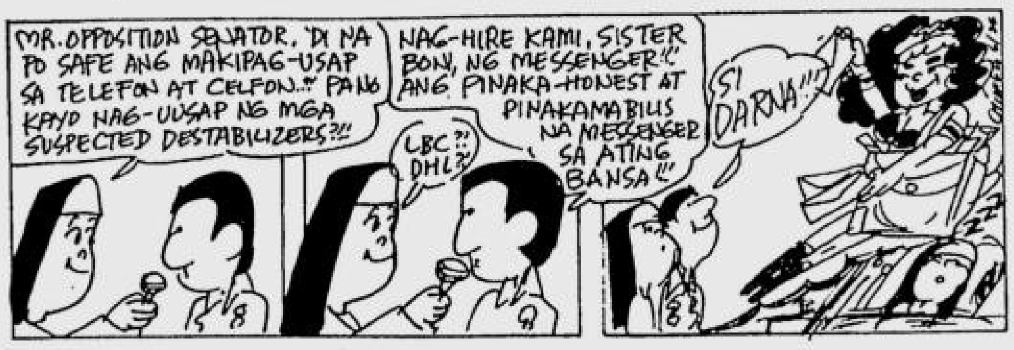
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


INAAAHY! OOOH... 'YUNG PROF. KO!... INAAAY!...
... N-NAKIUSAP KASI AKONG I-ENLIST AKO SA SUBJECT N'YA... TAPOS... TAPOS... PARA TANGGAPIN AKO E... I... INEXPLOIT ANG ASSETS KO! AAANGH!...
HA?!
...ASSET KO NA PAGKANTA AT PAGTULA THAT IS... AHIHIHIHI! HIHIHI... AHIHIHI...
NAY? ARE YOU OKAY, NAY?
.. HOY BRANDO! O AYAN LUMALABAS NA LAHI N'YO NG KAKORNIHAN! LANG'YA KA!..

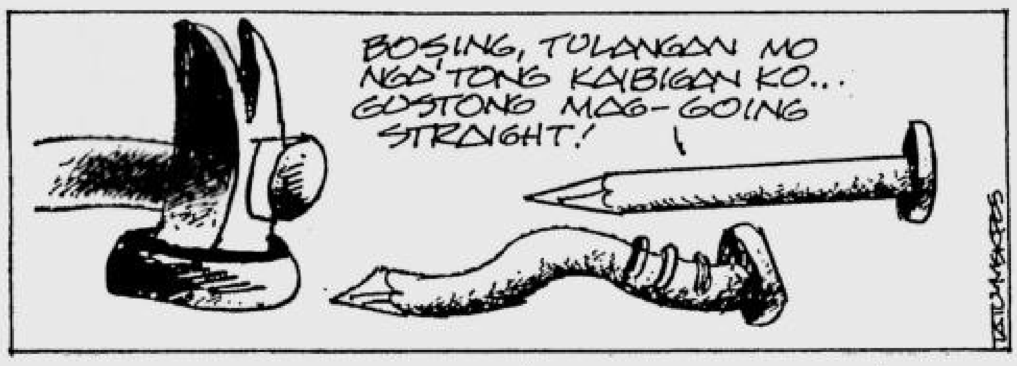
LOVEKNOTS

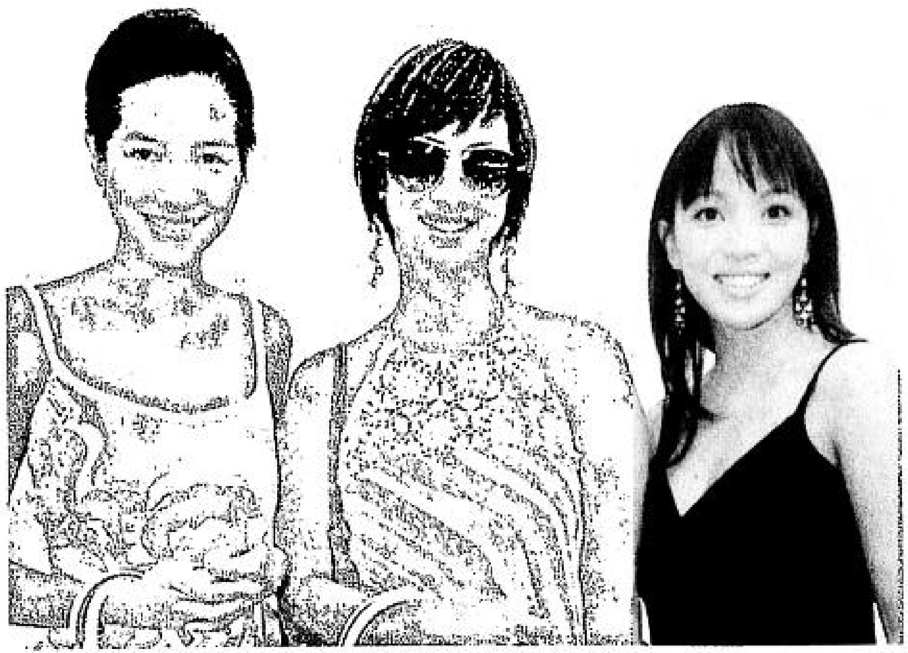
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MR. OPPOSITION SENATOR, 'DI NA PO SAFE ANG MAKIPAG-USAP SA TELEFON AT CELFON..!" PANO KAYO NAG-UUSAP NG MGA SUSPECTED DESTABILIZERS?!!
NAG-HIRE KAMI, SISTER BONI, NG MESSENGER!" ANG PINAKA-HONEST AT PINAKAMABILIS NA MESSENGER SA ATING BANSA!!"
LBC?! DHL?!
SI DARNA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BOSING, TULUNGAN MO NGA 'TONG KAIBIGAN KO... GUSTONG MAG-GOING STRAIGHT!



FASHION plates Celine Lopez and Jenni Epperson with Louis Vuitton Philippines brand manager, Rhea de Vera

INGRID Go

PAULINE Juan

MYRZA Sison

Whiff of the English . . .

From page F4

But the best of the lot, as far as I am concerned, is LV's to-die-for (or hawk your pair of diamond earrings) for the cool Speedy Monogram Denim, which has as its proud owner, fashion-plate **Ingrid Go**. It's a *tres-tres* limited edition bag that has a long waitlist, from Hong Kong to Tokyo to Manille. And believe me, it's worth the wait. Speedy comes in a deeper blue denim color, with eye-catching fire-engine red alligator trimmings. Its just sooo wow!

Time-out for ladies with a cause

The charity-oriented Catholic Women's Club took a break from its well-known civic and fund-raising activities by having a party.

An impromptu sing-along, some real fancy shakes on the dance floor and tons of laugh from juicy gossip capped a morning that began with a Mass officiated by Archbishop **Gaudencio Rosales,** no less, followed by the induction of the club's new hotshot officers, *palanggas*: president **Linda Pastoral**; senior first vice president **Tess Amparo**; senior second vice president **Tess Rodrigo**; senior third vice president **Mimi Valerio**; secretary **Rose Hugo**; and treasurer **Baby Gloria**.

Afterward, the ladies let their hair down and had a ball!

Okay people, dig into your wallet and contribute to any of the projects that these women work hard for and support, such as the Elsie Gaches Village for the elderly; Tuloy Sa Don Bosco Foundation for street children; and Mabata Foundation and Buklod Bahay Foundation in Laguna.

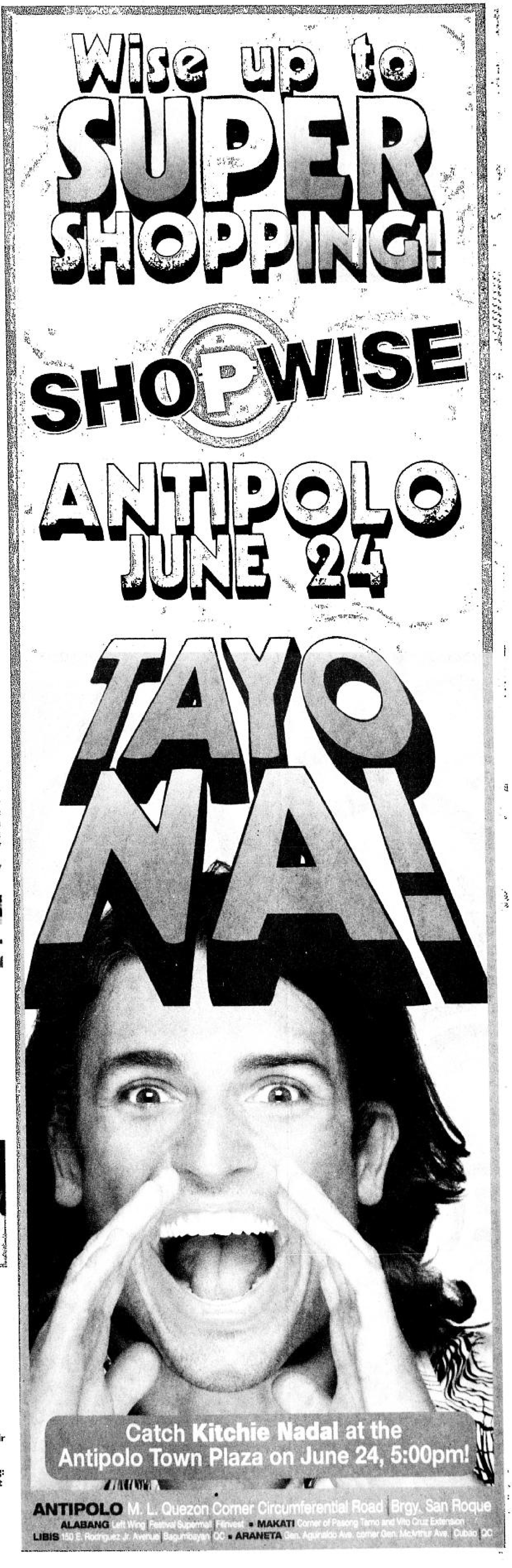
Go for it, *palanggas*. A little goes a long way for helping the needy.

CWC'S hot gals. Hardworking power women for the less fortunate past president Pilie Aquino, Nini Layug, Mabel Abaño, Linda Pastoral, one of Philippine Tatler's hostesses with the mostest Nene Leonor and Tess Villarama

MARITESS Pineda, Tess Castro and Nellie Bengson

NENUCA Blardony and Nena Casimiro

HOSPITALITY chair Tess Briones and cochair Nori Ongsiako. Standing: Tess Kabigting, past president Pilina Berenguer Rocha and second vice president Carrie Bautista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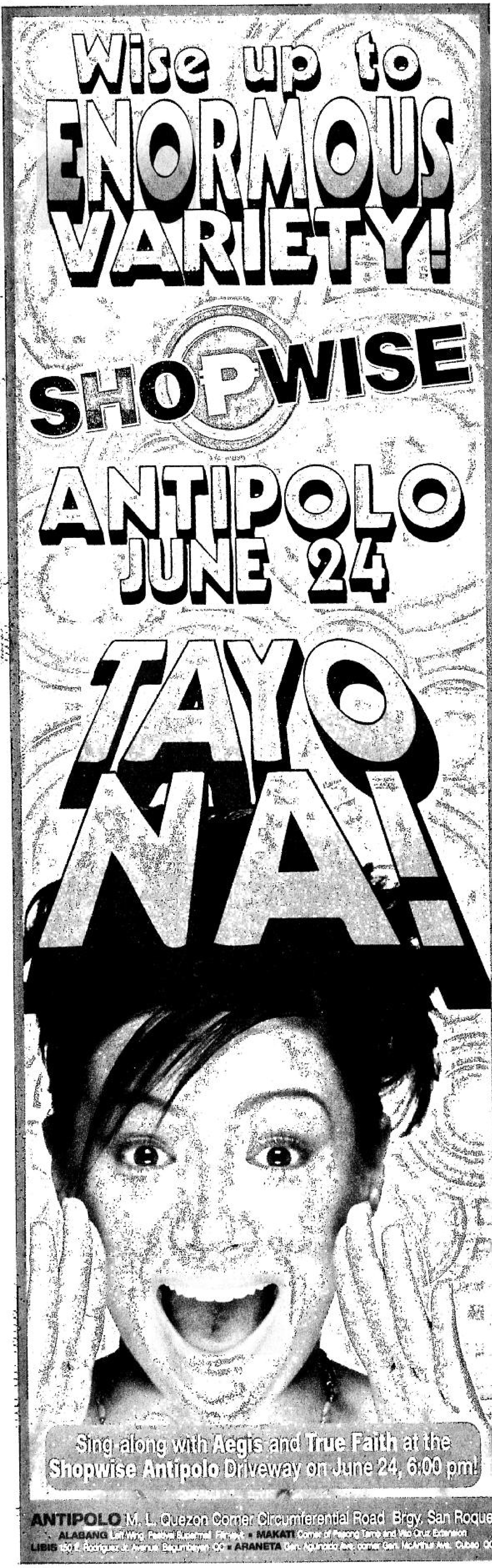
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DESIGNER and Mega Magazine's new editor in chief Carla Sibal; Katrina Goulbourn; C&E global CEO, brilliant Rob Ditchfield; Amina Aranaz and Mia Lauchengco

NUEVA Ecija Mayor Sonia Lorenzo and Jackie Dayrit-Boncan

MANNY Bautista and Raymond Lauchengco

Whiff of the English countryside in Manila

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE FABULOUS, glamorous members of Manille's elite set were at the Shangri-La Plaza for an exquisite whiff of the romantic English countryside, care of Crabtree & Evelyn's exciting new English Floral Collection.

Fresh Wisteria, Freesia, Lily of the Valley and Evelyn Rose took the spotlight, as did the collections of fashion designer **Katrina Goulbourn** and accessory designer and entrepreneur **Amina Aranaz.**

Museum curator **Mia Lauchengco** and designer and Mega mag editor **Carla Sibal**—they with the captivating personality and classic beauty—were the perfect gals for the product line.

"Crabtree & Evelyn carries unique award-winning products with an English heritage," said **Rob Ditchfield**, global CEO of the company who flew in especially for the event. "Crabtree and Evelyn products reflect the very best of science and nature, combining the benefits of modern technology with time-tested natural ingredients."

Crabtree & Evelyn Philippines sales and marketing director, pretty **Diana Lorenzo**, emphasized the "natural" thrust of the brand, describing the brand's wide assortment of bath, body, and lifestyle products as "inspired by nature, which adds pizzazz to the simple things in life."

Passion and elegance were the catchwords of the day, *palanggas*, as entertainer **Raymond Lauchengco** floored us with his hosting skills. He also performed a medley of songs from Broadway and the West End, perfectly suited to the audience that included Crabtree & Evelyn's director for Asia Pacific, **Margaret Chung**; regional manager **Mei Leong**; and marketing and communications manager **Winnie Wu.**

The Crabtree & Evelyn English Floral Collection exemplified class, from the fab product displays, down to the unique refreshments of hibiscus iced tea, vegetarian mini-pita pockets, eggplant fritters with garlic-mayo or spicy salsa, and bread and crostinis served with pate.

The flavor of the entire event was unmistakably high-end, undeniably Crabtree & Evelyn, *palanggas.*

For further info, contact **Diana A. Lorenzo** at diana@crabtree-evelyn.com.ph, or **Leah N. Borja**, sales and marketing executive, at leah@crabtree-evelyn.com.ph. Call 8436545 or fax 8138461.

Divine new bags

One of the world's classiest luxury brands, Louis Vuitton, gave us a *tres* exclusive preview of its latest leather goods collections.

Louis Vuitton Philippines's brand manager, cyber smart **Rhea de Vera**, welcomed us to the excellent, cozy Lumiere restaurant and gallery, where we were the first to drool over the fab new colors and shapes of the hottest new bags this season, which fashionably adorned the resto, *palanggas.*

WHIFF/ F3

SHANGRI-LA Plaza's Rheena Radan and Isa Santos

GIGI Bautista

C&E'S Margaret Chung, Winnie Wu, Mei Leong, Diana Lorenzo, Celia Aviar, Junji and Deo Olvina

LIFESTYLE

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Stylish threesome in blue and pink

GONZALES, Borgy Manotoc and Kelly Misa

BIANCA Gonzales in Pink Soda

TELEVISION host Bianca Gonzalez is the new model of Pink Soda.

"I like Pink Soda's clothes, especially the pants, because they ride well with my not-so-long legs and big hips," Bianca said.

"Their cuts are perfect for the Filipina."

"I like the way they experiment on colors, cuts and prints," she added.

Bianca described the spring collection as "purely girly," with lots of florals.

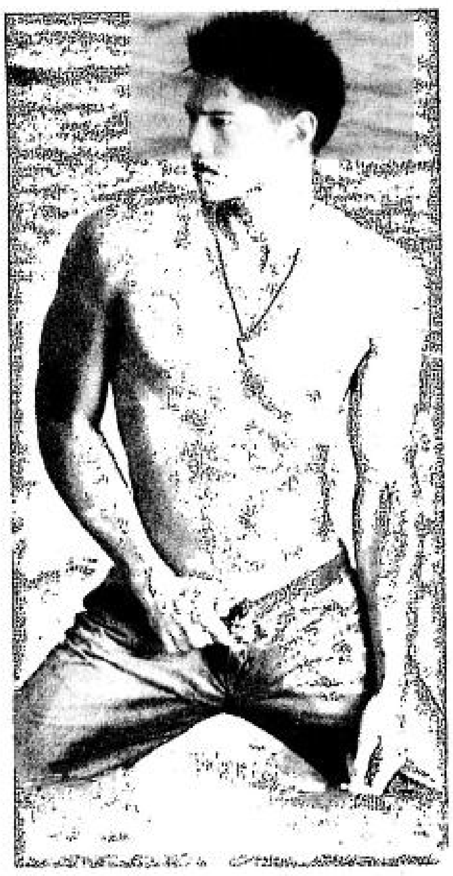
The other face of Pink Soda is model Kelly Misa.

Kelly's mix and match style fits well with the new collection consisting of denims, florals, skirts and cardigans.

Kelly spices them up with accessories such as earrings, bracelets and shoes.

Meanwhile, Blue Soda's main man is now Borgy Manotoc, who is finishing marketing and fashion design, at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Blue Soda goes "In the Navy" with its nautical look.


MANOTOC in Blue Soda

MISA in Pink Soda

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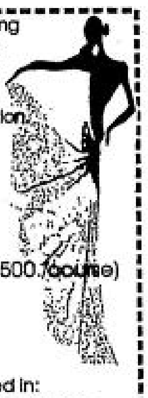

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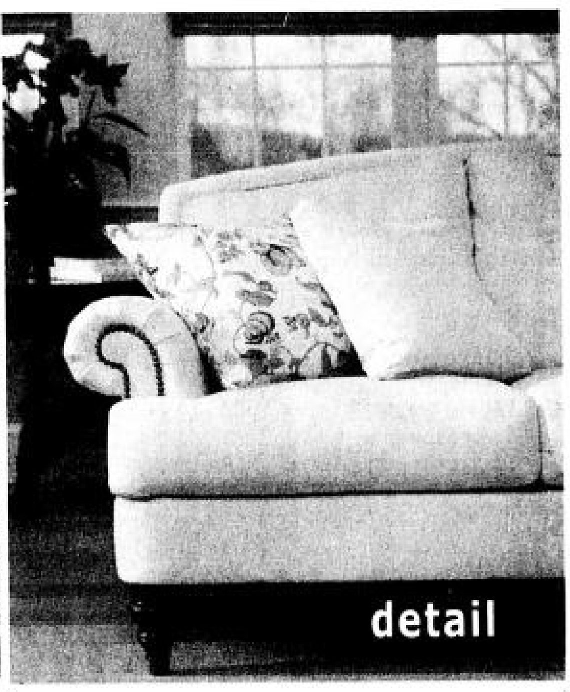
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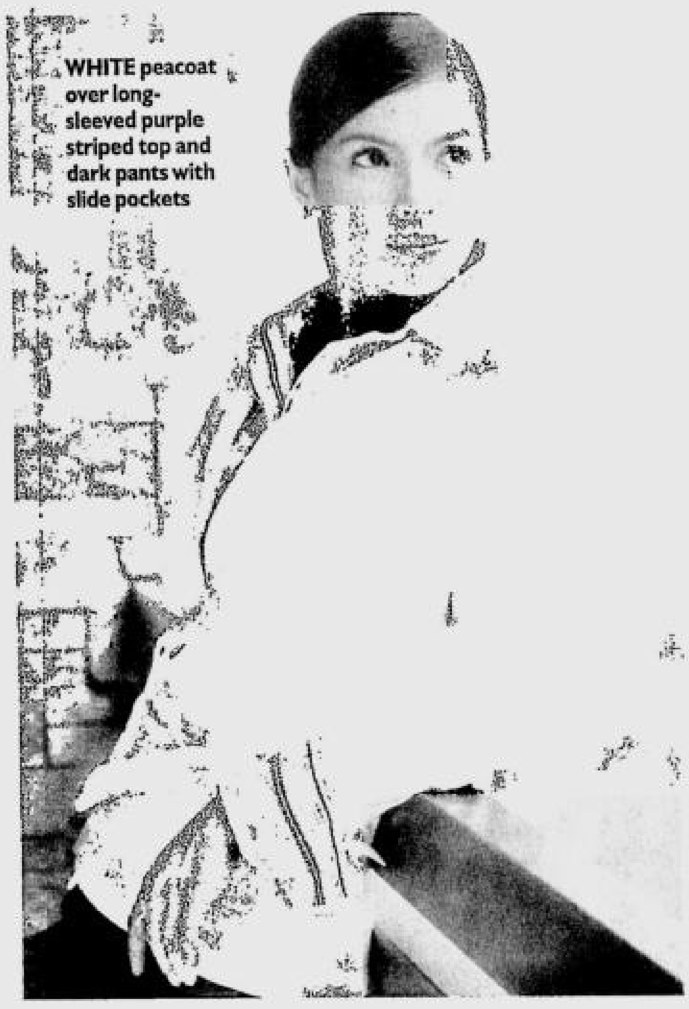
BLACK pinstriped ruched top with belt and gray stretch pants

LONG-SLEEVED striped top and black stretch pants

PINK cotton jacket with belt over floral top and cotton pants with French pockets



WHITE peacoat over long-sleeved purple striped top and dark pants with slide pockets

Comfort dressing for working women

LHASA Clothing launches its work wear collection in pastel hues, softer and more comfortable fabrics with trendy styles for career women.

Though ease and comfort are prime considerations in design, Lhasa also tries to ensure that its clothes are trendy and stylish. Lhasa's line includes casual office tops (blazer, blouses, polos, knits), slacks and skirts.

For a more relaxed corporate look, Lhasa also offers these tips:

- Buy pieces that incorporate trendy twists like waist tie, buttons, ribbons and drawstrings. Avoid whimsical touches that call attention to themselves.
- Wear printed pieces that blend well with casual blazers and tailored jackets (even sweaters). Mix and match colors, combine shades of the same color, or mix printed pieces.
- Choose wrinkle-free and low-maintenance pieces that can last not only from nine to five but also take you to cocktail hours by adding just a little touch like a silk scarf, jewelry or an elegant purse.
- Know your body type and choose clothes that flatter you. Use stretchable, easy and comfortable fabric that will fit your mood anytime of the day.
- Complement your casual separates with appropriate and well-maintained shoes, light makeup and neat hairstyle, short and well-manicured nails in one tone, bags and briefcases, flesh-toned hosiery for skirt wearers and matching belts.
- Dress up to suit your office environment and some unwritten dress code. Try to find someone whose style you like and follow her example in corporate dressing.

Check out Lhasa Clothing outlets at Glorietta 2 in Ayala Center, HIP at the Powerplant Mall, Robinsons Galleria Expansion Mall in Ortigas Center, Festival Supermall in Alabang, SM City Pampanga, and SM City Dasmariñas in Cavite. Call 0917-6236470, e-mail lhasaclothing.com, or visit lhasaclothing.com.

RED V-neck polo shirt with fold-up cuffs and black cotton stretch pants

FASHION BY LHASA CLOTHING
PHOTOS BY PAT DY
STYLING BY CHARMAINE PALERMO
MAKEUP BY LEO POSADAS

WHITE laced cardigan over a plum V-neck lace top and a baby-pink layered lace skirt (left); three-tone tie-dyed top with layered lace and bow accents (above)

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY. Lilac empire-cut top with pleated bodice and bead accents worn with denim pants

Boho is back

A CELEBRATION of free-spirited style, the bohemian look has been updated Gypsy, ethnic and jazzy touches with streetwise style.

It's fun and easy to put the look together. Tunics and empire tops go with jeans or capris. Flounced lace skirts are perfect with basic tees. Layering—wearing a camisole under a loose tunic—gives boho a fresh twist. Accessories—chandelier and hoop earrings, multiple necklaces, wraps and turbans—complete the look.

The Le Boheme collection is available at the Boutique Square department of all SM stores.

RED V-NECK empire-cut lace dress with gold glitzy accents

LIME-GREEN spaghetti-strap layered top with dainty beadwork worn with denim pants

BOHO CULTURE. Fuchsia lace cropped cardigan worn over a lime-green lace top

VINCE Hizon and son Vicente Patrick enjoy the day with the children of La Asosacion de Damas Filipinas. Undergarments brand BVD cites him as Man of Advocacy.

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In praise of men with advocacies

THE GLOBAL undergarments brand, BVD, pays tribute to "Men of Advocacy," young Filipino men who try to make the world a better place.

Popular basketball player Vince Hizon epitomizes the spirit of altruism. He set up the Vince Hizon Foundation eight years ago to put up libraries and computer facilities in public schools all over the country.

"Throughout my career, I've always wanted to give back," said Hizon. "In 1998, while watching CNBC Asia, I found out that according to an AC Nielsen survey, I'm the local counterpart of Michael Jordan in the Philippines."

Flabbergasted, he did some research and found out that the respondents were mostly the youth who considered him an icon. "It dawned on me then," he said, "that the youth were taking care of me and I had to give back to them in a more concrete way."

Hizon patterned his foundation after Magic Johnson's and Michael Jordan's own charities. Hizon is the first professional basketball player in the Philippines to put up a foundation.

Hizon focused on donating books and computers to public schools. "It's the year 2005 and if you aren't computer-literate, you don't have a very good chance of making it."

The foundation's first batch of computer-literacy students in Davao graduated this year.

Moreover, the foundation has also donated to orphanages such as La Asosacion de Damas Filipinas. "It's an honor to give them books because if the kids win, I win."

It isn't difficult to make a contribution. "We're always looking for books and computers," Hizon said. "Don't throw what you have in the trash. Even slow computers are better than no computers at all. You give someone a great opportunity by giving him a keyboard and a mouse."

E-mail the Vince Hizon Foundation: vincehizon@hotmail.com.

Gerry Chua, on the other hand, found his mission at a young age and made it part of his life's work. "Forced" by his godfather to join the volunteer fire brigade when he was 16, Chua stayed on, realizing the good it brought.

"I get a different feeling whenever I help," he said. "I can't explain it. After a fire, one feels different, especially when you see that there are lots of helpless people, victims of fire, who can't do anything."

IN THE LINE of duty. Gerry Chua rides on the fire trucks he donated to the Binondo and Paco Volunteer Fire, Search and Rescue Brigades.

Chua is the president of Eng Bee Tin Deli and Bakery and barangay chair of District 289 in Manila.

Recently elected as president of the Association of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigades, which is composed of 4,500 volunteers in 40 districts all over the Philippines, Chua vowed to professionalize firefighting in the country.

He has also started the Text Fire 0918-6888888 campaign, capitalizing on the Filipino's penchant for text messaging to prevent or kill fires.

"However I get busy in my business, I really take time out for my advocacy. If you do good, you will be blessed," he said.

Chua has donated four fire trucks and a rescue van to the Binondo and Paco volunteer fire brigades.

He also donates part of the revenues of Café Mezzanine, one of two restaurants he owns, to firefighting.

Like Hizon and Chua, BVD and its licensees and distributors stand strongly against child labor, unsafe labor conditions, and race-gender-religion discrimination.

BVD stands for Bradley, Voorhees, and Day, the men who established the brand in 1876. It is available at SM Department Stores, Rustan's, Landmark, and Plaza Fair-Makati.

BVD honors father, fireman and *ube hopia* inventor Gerry Chua for his involvement with the Binondo and Paco Volunteer Search. This Man of Advocacy is also the president of Association of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigades.

HIZON created his own foundation that donates books and computers to help educate indigent children. He says it is his way of giving back to the youth.

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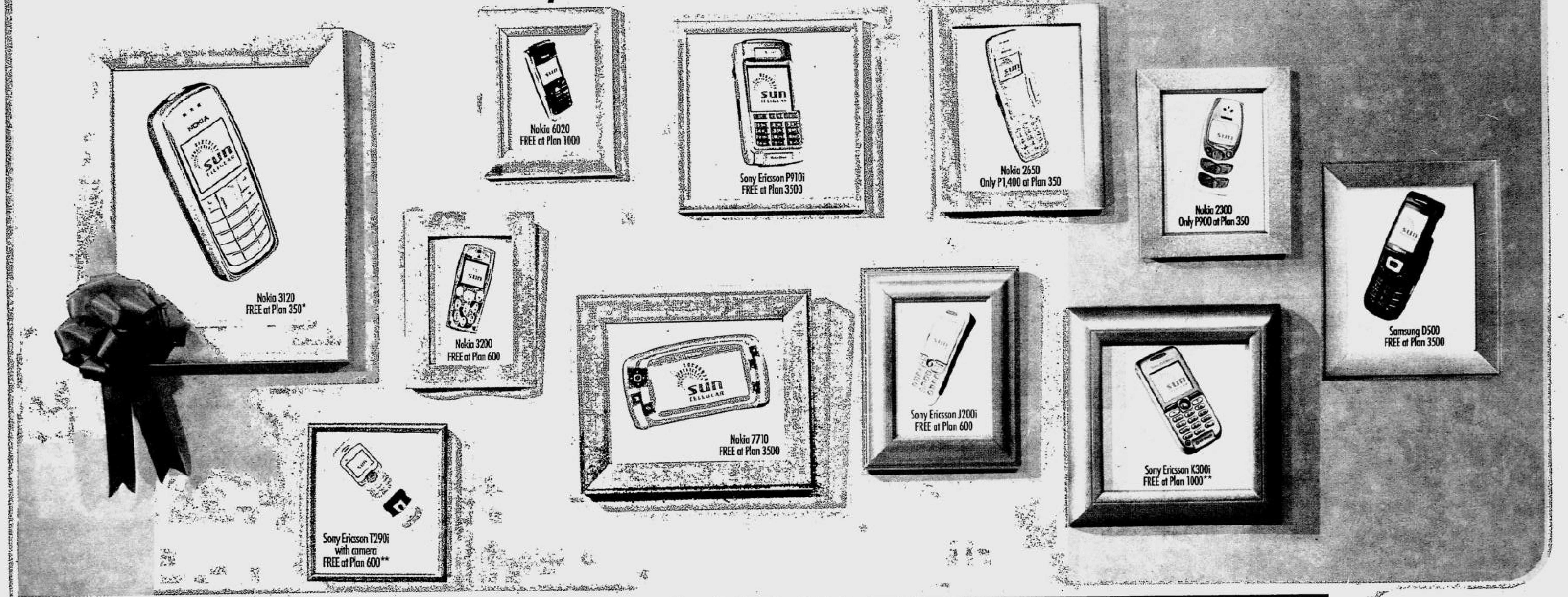
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